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Gypsy groups unite to claim their rights



Press photographers were not out in force as representatives of three Romany organisations, meeting at a seminar in Bremen, agreed to throw in their lot together.

There was no champagne or polite applause either as Romani Rose, Oskar Birkenhauer and Theresia Seible signed on the dotted line.

They did so on behalf of German gypsy groups, the Verband Deutscher Sinti, the Cinti Union Deutschland and the Comitee der Zigeuner/Internationale Frauenorganisation.

Their declared aim was "no longer to passively tolerate injustice, working publicly instead to help put paid to all manner of discrimination and prejudice."

This joint endeavour amounts to more than much of what has been accomplished by conventional gypsy welfare work over the past 30 years.

In the quest for a new sense of identity the country's major Romany organisations have joined forces, reaching agreement on regional and supra-regional cooperation at a seminar arranged in Bremen by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

So Bremen is a milestone in their progress towards a new image of themselves. It also marked the end of tutelage by non-gypsy do-gooders.

As the Romany community set about doing its own thing predictable responses came from non-gypsy quarters.

Silvia Sobeck, welfare officer of the Roman Catholic mission to gypsies and nomads, was one of those who declined to attend.

"Sounds a shady business to me," she explained, "especially as a majority of those who took part have lately voiced public criticism of my work and qualifications."

But the 50,000 Romanies in Germany are determined to claim their rights. About 20 per cent of them, for instance, are still awaiting naturalisation.

Yet only 10,000 are members of one or other of the organisations. Many can neither read nor write. How, as one participant put it, are they to set about claiming their right to surface from the dregs?

Romani Rose is not a member of the community who is condemned to live on a garbage tip or alongside a sewage farm. But he readily admits the price he had to pay: "I succeeded in living a different life because I used to disavow my race." He forbade his son to admit to being a Romany, for instance.

"You have to. It's a matter of life or death," another gypsy agrees. "If I go anywhere and say I'm a gypsy they chuck me out. If I say I'm a Jew I can suddenly do whatever I want."

Hans Braun, a Romany from Baden-Baden, is another gypsy who feels he has only been able to survive by exchanging one holocaust for another.

He survived internment in Flossenbürg concentration camp and since the war has tried his luck as a hotelier.

"But I always have to quit once anyone finds out I'm a gypsy. So I say I'm a Jew."

It is less than three months since German Romanies were publicly admitted by a prominent politician to have been a persecuted minority under the Nazis.

But little has changed since the memorial ceremony was held at Belsen. At least Dietrich Sperling, state secretary at the Bonn Housing Ministry, has undertaken to avoid forcing gypsies to conform.

Music festivals, fine words and good will are not enough, however. Romani Rose is sceptical about the enthusiasm shown by non-gypsies, who are currently keen as mustard to fraternise and set up organisations of one kind or another.

"We would do well to remember that we happen to be fashionable at the moment," he says.

He and fellow-spokesmen have their work cut out avoiding being viewed as either an official minority representation or little more than a joke.

They continually run the risk of being regarded as either folksy or a fossil, which is why they have been quick to backtrack from pushing the music they feel is their most treasured cultural heritage.

During the seminar a non-gypsy was heard to ask whether there would be any music that evening. "Not everyone plays music just because he is a gypsy," was the studied Romany reply.

"We need to approach local government officials," Herr Rose says. "Just holding seminars isn't going to get us anywhere."

In Bremen, for instance, there is a local gypsies' rights association of which two members of the city council are members.

The association is envisaged as a lobby, a means of bringing gypsies and non-gypsies together and a step in the direction of restoring Romany self-respect.

Romany pride, pride in gypsyhood and the gypsy way of life, cast a magic spell but also proved an extremely controversial concept.

Pride sets apart Romanies who have made the grade (by conventional standards) from those who have not, suave



What is their future? A gypsy site near Cologne. (Pho

officials from slum and garbage tip dwellers.

"What have gypsies got to be proud of?" asks Matheus Weiss from Kiel. "What they went through in the concentration camps or the filth they live in?"

"Our language does not have words for concepts such as old people's home or psychiatry," replies Oskar Birkenfelder. "That we can surely be proud of."

But a functioning family life is of scant use to Matheus Weiss as long as he is unable to feed the family.

He does a lot of travelling as a salesman, but because he cannot read or write he is unable to pass the driving test and has 15 convictions for driving without a valid licence.

Not everywhere are Romanies as readily accepted as in Freiburg, where Herr Birkenfelder is delighted with housing that is in keeping with the gypsy mentality and sense of identity.

There is ample room for large families without accommodation being restricted to virtual ghettoes. In Freiburg the gypsy community has a cultural centre and a primary school of its own.

"There is next to no truancy," Herr Birkenfelder says. Most Romanies listen to his report with amazement written all over their faces. The tales they mostly have to tell are somewhat different.

There are the towns where Romany teenagers are banned from discotheques, where unsuspecting bureaucrats house gypsies in a building that also houses a horse butcher's (a powerful taboo) and where better informed neighbours bombard the campsite with soil from veyard (another taboo).

Welfare officers who are at al pathetic towards Romanies ar nicknamed the Gypsy Baron or (Lily, like Uta Horstmann from Mc

A number of prejudices and mi assumptions are fostered by inapp ate behaviour on the Romanies' part. Take, for instance, the neve die rumour that gypsies hoard t treasure.

Frau Horstmann claims gypsi regularly sentenced to inordinately h fines in court. "It's because you manies think you can do anything money," she says.

"At times ridiculously high offered. You can hardly blame for thinking the money must be somewhere.

"No-one realises that the entire ly, including the most distant chips in to raise the cash."

Romanies need the help of non-g ies and are well aware of the fact: in t literacy campaign, for instance, or trying to reopen the case for repara

Romany officials and welfare wo feel they made slight headway in p suading an institution such as the Fr rich Neumann Foundation they important enough to be paid trav and overnight expenses.

"It was the first time we have not to make do with sleeping on infla rubber mattresses," says Frau H mann.

The major Romany organisations now agreed on their objectives too. feel they are heading in the directi "active solidarity."

"When it comes to politics it is us to put our own point of view," Herr Birkenfelder. "We are no l satisfied simply to be allowed to adds Herr Rose.

The Bremen gathering unanimo agreed that Romanies were no l begging; they were demanding their

One of their first moves has bee wield moral weapons. "We don't ne do what the Moluccans do in Holl Herr Rose explains.

A group of Romanies have launched an unlimited hunger strik the site of the former Dachau con tration camp.

Niels N. von Hal

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsb 24 Februar

Friendly Islands, but not quite a paradise

Tonga was not for nothing dubbed the Friendly Islands by Captain Cook, and since the state visit to Germany last year by its hospitable, heavyweight king it has fascinated his hosts.

Visitors to Tonga's atolls and volcanic islands in the sun are reportedly welcomed with garlands of flowers and suckling pigs roast on the spit.

They may also be shown Tu'i Malila, an old tortoise who is claimed to have been presented to Captain Cook too. To sun-starved Germans, Tonga, independent since 1970, sounds very much like paradise on earth.

King Taufaahau Tutou seems to have retained fond memories of Germany too. In an interview with *Bunte Illustrierte*, an illustrated weekly magazine, he is claimed to have been truly regal in his generosity.

Germans were allegedly not only entitled to live in Tonga tax-free, they would also be given a plot of land.

Doubtless inevitably, the Tongan High Commissioner in London was bombarded with inquiries, so much so that he has had to appeal for respite.

Apparently the King was misquoted. What he actually said was that Tonga would always welcome foreigners who invested in its agriculture and fisheries.

But others, sad to say, will be limited to a 30-day stay subject to proof that they have sufficient funds and a return ticket.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 22 February 1980)

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 23 March 1980
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Schmidt, Giscard, look for new guidelines

A mere six weeks after routine consultations in Paris, President Giscard d'Estaing of France and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt met again for talks at the Chancellor's private home in Hamburg.

The talks come hard on the heels of trips by both: Giscard d'Estaing having toured the Arab world and Herr Schmidt having visited the United States.

In the Arab world the French leader earned applause for his demonstrative yet universally controversial advocacy of self-determination for the Palestinians.

In America the West German leader was able to foster at least a modicum of understanding for the Bonn Government's tactical approach to the Afghanistan crisis.

But the two men felt obliged to confer again after such a short interval for more than a mere exchange of views on past successes.

Future worries and plans were what brought the Chancellor from Bonn and the President from Paris together again. Guidelines particularly needed laying down for the Brussels EEC summit that was only two weeks ahead. At Brussels nothing less than the destiny of the European Community will be at stake.

In this context M. Giscard d'Estaing was indeed the most important person Herr Schmidt could discuss matters with.

Quite apart from the British threat to cut EEC contributions a variety of breaches of Community law by France have undermined the Common Market lately.

Unless Paris agrees to return to the fold the unity of Western Europe will be in serious jeopardy.

In view of this discord it was little short of surprising that M. Giscard d'Estaing wanted to discuss with Herr Schmidt the extent to which the Nine could play a larger joint role in world affairs.

The French President emphatically voiced such ideas during his Arabian tour in the context of Palestine, but lofty ambitions and European realities are a poor match.

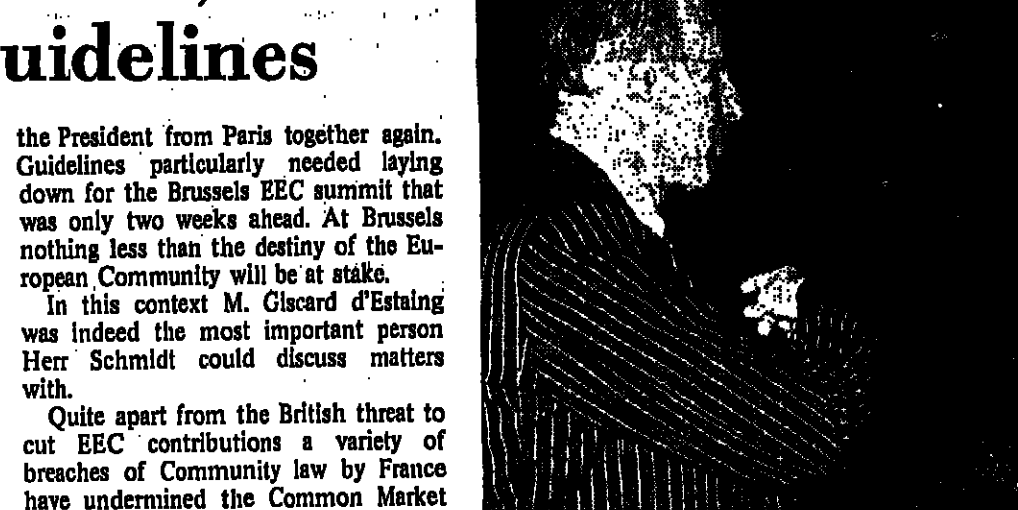
Besides, in the Middle East French and West German interests may clearly differ for historical and ethical reasons.

Paris may want to activate its traditionally cordial ties with the Arab world, but Bonn must first and foremost heed Israel's right to survive.

It would be even more dubious for Europe to go it alone in the Middle East, as was doubtless mooted at the Hamburg summit.

The Kremlin has been quick to put paid to the EEC proposal for neutralisation of Afghanistan and, once having rejected it, has not seen fit even to mention it again.

This clearly underscores the limits to Western European diplomacy at present.



President Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Schmidt meet in Hamburg. A variety of European and world problem brought about this meeting, the second between the two in six weeks. (Photo: dpa)

It is not backed by a cohesive power group, merely by a loose association of states that are largely at odds with each other.

Diplomacy without power is certainly not going to contain Soviet expansion.

Free Europe will in future only be able to play a larger part in world affairs it countries that form part of it finally agree to put paid to egoism and bury the hatchet.

This is the only precondition on which the European Community can hope to be taken seriously politically in both the Kremlin and the White House.

Signs of a thoroughgoing domestic reinforcement of the EEC have yet to be seen, however. Indeed, the Brussels EEC summit holds forth the prospect of disaster.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt may just, however, have succeeded in surmounting a balance sheet of the past and laying down guidelines for a better future.

Martin Wein

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 16 March 1980)

IN THIS ISSUE

Strauss goes to US

Hours before Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt flew back to Hamburg from talks in the United States, Franz Josef Strauss, the Shadow Chancellor, flew off to America.

Herr Strauss held talks with President Carter, National Security Adviser Brzezinski, Defence Secretary Brown, Secretary of State Vance and a number of Congressmen and Senators.

He said that his views on Afghanistan coincided almost exactly with those of President Carter.

The Bonn Opposition considers the response to Herr Strauss's visit as proof that it was on much better terms with the US Government than the present Bonn administration. Social Democrats accused Herr Strauss of "attacking the Chancellor in an unfair manner" in the United States.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 March 1980)



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher makes a point to Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao at their meeting in Bonn. (Photo: dpa)

Bonn pins hopes on India's role

India has a crucial role to play in surmounting the Afghanistan crisis and stabilising the Middle East, Bonn is convinced.

So great importance was attached to the visit to Bonn by India's External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, a close associate of Mrs Gandhi.

In Bonn he met President Carstens, Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher.

Diplomatic circles in Bonn feel that India, due to its geopolitical position and its powerful role in the non-aligned world, may assume a leading part in any attempt to restore Afghanistan's status as a non-aligned nation.

Indications that the Indian Government is working towards a political solution of this kind have been carefully registered in Bonn.

The German view is that this provides an important nexus at which to engage in talks and testifies to an "interesting parallelism of views and objectives."

The Bonn Government has reiterated its intention of doing nothing in the Middle East that might lead to an aggravation of the situation, especially anything that might exacerbate Indo-Pakistan differences.

Bonn will not be taking part in arms deliveries to Islamabad but nonetheless believes economic stabilisation of Pakistan to be in India's security interest.

Bilateral ties between Bonn and Delhi have taken a turn for the better. Last year the volume of joint trade for the first time passed DM2bn.

A further increase in Bonn's development aid to India, which accounts for nearly a quarter of total public development assistance to the Third World, is not on the agenda.

(General-Anzeiger, 15 March 1980)

■ SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS

Russians launch propaganda war on Bonn foreign policy

Soviet media criticism of Bonn's policies by no mean heralds a new attitude towards West Germany by the Kremlin. It is already an expression of the new attitude.

Bonn, as Moscow sees it, is drifting completely in Washington's wake, having forfeited its political independence.

The Nato decision to install a new generation of medium-range nuclear missiles in central Europe is taken as a pretext for no longer viewing Bonn's policies in terms of the Ostpolitik of yesteryear.

At the time Moscow did not expressly assert that endorsement of the Nato decision was evidence of a new quality in Bonn's foreign policy.

The Soviet Union did, however, try to convince Bonn how dangerous arms modernisation was and suggestions were made that Bonn failed to see how serious the situation was.

This in itself did not necessarily mean there would be a fresh political confrontation between the two. It took the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to add a new and serious feature to the game.

Not even in Soviet propaganda has a link been forged between Western rearmament and Soviet intervention, but Bonn's attitude gradually resulted in the Kremlin reviewing its position and starting to make a different assessment of Bonn's policies.

The scant attention paid to the West German debate on consequences to be taken as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan was typical of this rethink.

The Soviet media chose to hold fire on Europe (except Britain), vehemently criticising US policy instead as a would-be reversion to cold warfare.

An event such as the January Bundestag debate was given not a mention in Soviet commentaries even though it fleshed out the policy lately outlined in Chancellor Schmidt's foreign policy statement and culminated in agreement with Washington.

In February, Moscow rang the detente changes, praising the successes of the 70s and the benefits enjoyed by both East and West as a result.

The Bonn Government's declaration of solidarity with the United States sounded like little more than lip service and appeared to be more than offset by its failure to fall in immediately with the US-backed Olympic boycott or other counter-measures.

But Moscow has ceased to hold fire since the last Bundestag foreign policy debate. For the time being Bonn's days of grace have drawn to a close.

Its verbal pronouncements apparently no longer leave room for doubt as Soviet interpreters see it.

Soviet commentaries on Herr Schmidt's Bundestag address and criticism of the results of his meeting with Mr Carter voice misgivings along the lines of actions speak louder than words.

And the actions, as Moscow sees them, are, for instance, that Bonn is prepared to go along with US plans to boycott the Olympics unless Russia enables all countries to take part.

This determination has come as a surprise to the Soviet Union, which only goes to show either that Bonn's policy was conducive to misunderstanding or that Moscow was willing to misunderstand it.

Moscow also feels Bonn has reviewed its outlook on a trade embargo since it has now refused to supply strategic goods and plug gaps left by the US boycott.

The Soviet Union was counting on West Germany as its major trading partner in the West and seems likely to respond with displeasure if Bonn sticks to its present line.

Tass reported in a more-or-less rhetorical vein that Herr Schmidt had forgotten to mention what consequences could ensue for the West German economy.

A commentary in *New Times* spelt it out in even tougher language, ... that hundreds of thousands of ... would be at stake of the socialist ... were to place no more orders in ... West.

But Soviet commentators were ... griest of all about Bonn's role in ... tern arms policy.

Tass wrote that the West German Chancellor was helping the Carter Administration to upset the international balance of power and establish Western supremacy.

He was also prepared to make a German military contribution outside the Nato sector, plunging Europe into an arms race that "could make military detente on the Continent out of the question."

New Times dealt with the debate about an alleged reinforcement of the Bundeswehr and longer period of conscription, recalling the "disgraceful" ... Bonn played in the Nato decision to develop a new generation of medium-range missiles for Europe.

What was new, however, was that government circles in Bonn shared Franz Josef Strauss's views on detente, ... the commentary claimed.

Herr Strauss, it said, felt that recent events confirmed that the 10 years of Ostpolitik had been a mistake.

Bonn, Soviet analysts conclude, is playing Washington's game, and since Moscow considers America's policy a hindrance to further detente, Bonn's policy has gained this reputation too.

Bonn's value as a partner has declined in Moscow's estimation. Soviet hopes of persuading Bonn to pursue a common interest have been dashed.

Eduard Neumaier

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 March 1980)

At 12.11 hours on the first Friday in March an explosive device went off in the toilet of the Soviet consulate-general in West Berlin.

A partition wall was blown to bits, an office was destroyed and a safe moved several metres under the impact.

A few minutes later a man speaking broken German rang Deutsche Presse-Agentur in Frankfurt and Rias, a radio station, in West Berlin, claiming Afghan rebels were responsible.

An explosive device was also found in the Frankfurt Aeroflot office, so all Soviet installations are being guarded more carefully.

In West Berlin that means more than half a dozen offices, mostly set up in the wake of the 1971 Four-Power Agreement.

There is the consulate-general, the Soviet foreign trade organisations' office, the Aeroflot and Intourist offices, the *Novosti*, *Izvestia* and *Tass* bureaus and the homes of about 50 Soviet officials.

The bomb attack achieved exactly what the Bonn Government, the West Berlin Senate and the three Western Powers had hoped to avoid: the spread of the Afghanistan conflict to the balance of interests in Berlin.

Hermann Meyn, spokesman for the Berlin Senate, was quick to condemn the "heinous attack" in the strongest terms.

But the Soviet embassy in East Berlin, which is not formally responsible for the West Berlin consulate-general, lost no time in blaming the West Berlin authorities for the attack.

The Soviet Union lodged a protest with the three Western Powers, calling for the culprits to be arrested and given exemplary punishment, for damages and for guarantees of the safety of its citizens and installations.

Even so, in Berlin the Soviet response

Both sides keen on keeping Berlin free of tension

is extremely muted. Since the Afghan crisis all sides have been painstakingly keen to observe restraint in Berlin at least.

The Western Powers were quick to gain the impression that the Soviet Union did not intend to use West Berlin as a means of letting off steam.

The West, too, is keen not to carry over tension to Berlin. The State Department, the Foreign Office and the Quai d'Orsay have advised their diplomats to make the Soviet Union feel the change of climate everywhere except in Berlin.

Political observers do not expect the situation to grow more complicated in West Berlin until (and always providing) the Western Powers and Bonn agree to boycott the Moscow Olympics and maybe place a substantial damper on trade with the East bloc.

So far, though, both the Soviet Union and the GDR would prefer to avoid applying pressure on the divided city. East German leader Erich Honecker took care to emphasise the cordial nature of intra-German trade ties at this year's Leipzig spring fair.

Herr Honecker was not alone in forecasting a "good year for economic relations." Many West German exhibitors at Leipzig agree, testifying to a degree of optimism seldom heard at a Leipzig Fair.

The GDR Press paid special attention to a Leipzig Fair message from President Carter, doubtless thereby intending to convey the impression that the GDR was unaffected by the conflict between Washington and Moscow.

Mr Carter's message was addressed not to the GDR Government but to fair visitors, yet even so it is true that the United States blames the Soviet Union, not its socialist allies, for the situation.

The GDR leadership evidently not only believes tension to be regionally divisible and currently limited to the Near East; it also believes there can be a sectoral division between tension and detente.

Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel is lambasted in the Press as a "ruthless agent of the military-industrial complex," an "agitator" and an "arms race minister."

At the Krupp stand in Leipzig, Herr Honecker at the same time turned on the sweetest of smiles, expressing hopes of ever better economic ties.

The GDR would very much prefer intra-German business deals to be affected as little as possible by the less salubrious repercussions of politics.

Just as Bonn is interested in a minimum of consensus with the GDR, largely in the interest of Berlin, the GDR government depends on the foreign exchange it earns from the intra-German treaties and on modernisation of its economy with the aid of intra-German trade.

It is reported from East Berlin that GDR, Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer on his latest trip to Moscow was given a free hand to hold further negotiations with Bonn.

The GDR is said to be prepared to countenance further travel alleviations for its citizens if Bonn were to indicate that it would not be participating in a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

The relaxations envisaged might, say, involve a reduction in the age above which travel to the West is permitted or, in keeping with other East bloc states, permission to every citizen to undertake one trip a year to the West.

The announcement that exit permits will be issued for a number of GDR writers is doubtless intended as a precursor of such liberality.

This would not be such a maladroit move either. Bonn would surely be willing to make a fair number of sacrifices in return for tangible relaxations on travel restrictions for GDR citizens.

But it is not going to sacrifice solidarity with Nato, let alone allow the GDR to reward it for so doing.

In other words, the two German states might attempt to salvage their special relationship during short-term phases of tension, but the deeper the East-West conflict digs, the less they will be able to maintain their idyll.

Joachim Nawrocki

(Die Zeit, 14 March 1980)

The German Tribune

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Washington, Bonn 'agree on crucial points'

Nordwest-Zeitung

Washington and Bonn have arrived at a consensus on crucial questions, the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, told a Press conference on his return from the United States.

However the "crucial questions" did not include the issue of an Olympic boycott.

The Chancellor said the West, initially helpless over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, was coming up with an overall concept.

German-German relations remained unaffected by the crisis and the dialogue between the superpowers continues.

But the "signals" that are supposed to buttress Helmut Schmidt's optimism on new East-West negotiations concerning medium-range missiles are fuzzy.

Is it perhaps Leonid Brezhnev's letter to Schmidt, which he discussed with Jimmy Carter, that he means when referring to the "many signals"?

If this is so, the Chancellor's moderate optimism seems to have no basis in fact. Brezhnev's letter was directed against US policy and, as Schmidt put it, marked by soliciting understanding for the Soviet cause.

The Soviet leader's offer to negotiate the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe if Nato rescinds its modernisation decision in no way differs from the Kremlin's previous stand.

What remains is the correspondence itself and the obvious willingness of the superpowers to continue the CSCE process and to go through with the Follow-up Conference in Madrid.

What also remains is the possibility of Chancellor Schmidt's going to Moscow, though this would be meaningless at present because Bonn cannot take up a position between the superpowers but only on the side of one of them.

What Helmut Schmidt revealed about the contents of the Brezhnev letter can only lead to the conclusion that the Kremlin is still trying to drive a wedge between the Western allies and, in the long run, uncouple Western Europe from America.

The moderate tone of the letter in no way changes this assessment since the Soviets remain as unyielding as ever.

The Soviets' dual strategy is borne out by the recent attacks on Germany's policy by *Pravda* and the weekly *Novoye Vremya*. It is obvious that the Soviet aim is to divide the West by a stick-and-carrot policy while at the same time distracting attention from the Red Army in Afghanistan.

Since Schmidt is aware of this strategy, his moderate optimism can only be based on the fact that the superpowers are talking to each other again.

New disarmament talks between Washington and Moscow and, hence, between the alliances represented by the two superpowers would relieve the Bonn Government of the necessity to change its détente policy.

Ultimately, Herr Schmidt's optimism expresses that bit of scope which Bonn and Paris have managed to retain for their détente efforts within the Western alliance.

The meeting in Hamburg between French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Schmidt was devoted to finding ways and means of using this scope to promote America's interests as well.

One element in defusing the East-West relations is the West's increased weight in the Arab Gulf states where Giscard has just completed a successful visit. Moscow's plans for that region have been thwarted.

The question now is whether this will make Moscow make concessions on the Afghanistan issue.

The way things stand at present, the frosty East-West relations can only be thawed and relaxed if the Soviets give in on Afghanistan.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 13 March 1980)

Schmidt works on the domestic angle

The Bonn Government now faces the domestic repercussions of the Afghanistan affair. Chancellor Schmidt will probably try some new approaches in his State of the Nation message.

His visit to Washington did little to clarify ways and means of coping with the East-West crisis.

So now his aim will be to prevent the Opposition from gaining the upper hand in the domestic arena as the Parliamentary election campaign gets under way.

But since the political and strategic concept with which the West, spearheaded by America, wants to respond to the conflict has little substance so far, the Bonn Government is hard put to depict the consequences at home.

As a result, there is growing concern that the electorate might become insecure in trying to answer the question: What will the crisis cost us?

This refers not only to money but to the political price as well. Bonn can cope with Moscow's stepped up attacks on Schmidt and Genscher in the knowledge that America, too, has been told about and understands Germany's interest in a continuing East-West dialogue with emphasis on restoring the balance of power.

Behind the verbal battles, German-German relations continue and are indeed improving.

Bonn takes it as a good omen that the GDR did not permit the Leipzig Fair to suffer from the present frosty relations in world politics. And the part which Lower Saxony's Finance Minister Leisler-Kiep, CDU, has played in trade matters in Leipzig points to a non-partisan consensus.

The issue of the Olympic boycott is more tricky. Bonn wants to play this down until 25 May, the closing date for registration for the Moscow Games.

But even so, a decision will have to be made, and there can hardly be any doubt as to what this decision will be.

No-one in Bonn — and this includes the coalition government — believes that the Soviet Union will create a situation that will permit everybody to participate in the Games.

In fact, Brezhnev's letter to Schmidt seems to have dashed all hopes in this direction.

It is therefore likely that Bonn — hopefully in concert with France — will stay away from the Games, and the athletes and officials will have little choice but to pull out.

Then why wait? This is the most likely question to be asked by the Opposition, supported by pools that show that two-thirds of the public favour a boycott.

It is only natural for the conservatives to depict the Chancellor as a man nurturing Olympic illusions.

The coalition's argument that it is biding its time, hoping to eliminate any European discord, is unlikely to find buyers among the electorate.

The material consequences of the Afghanistan crisis hit where it hurts. Here time is running out for the Government. The closer we get to election day without clearly calculating the cost of the Afghanistan crisis to this country, the harder it will become to tell the electorate exactly where it stands.

This is most obvious with regard to the promised tax package. Will there have to be cutbacks in the tax relief and by how much?

How much will the additional aid for Pakistan, the Gulf region and other Third World countries cost us? How much will we have to pay to America for the "infrastructure" of its troops should Washington want to extend its presence in this country?

Schmidt's Washington talks have been particularly unproductive on this score.

We are thus running the risk that, pressed for time because the legislative period is running out, the coalition will pass a tax package that will overtax the coffers by several billion deutschemarks.

The 1976 accusation that the Government deceived the public on the pensions issue could now be followed by a similar accusation on taxes.

Government circles speak of a "soft flank" in a political battle order that is otherwise still viewed as favourable.

The FDP still holds that the public will go along with necessary cutbacks — provided, of course, that they are shown convincing and detailed calculations.

But these would have to be presented by April to enable the Government to come up with a "small rather than uncertain tax package."

Bonn's visitors to America have little reason to expect that they will be able to give some hopeful signals soon.

The Bonn coalition is looking forward to the day of reckoning with considerable worry. And even the fact that polls show that the coalition is in better shape now than it was four years ago is no great consolation.

Thomas Meyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 March 1980)

Relations 'are marked by trust'

Frankfurter Rundschau

Relations between Bonn and Washington are "in order, good and marked by mutual trust", says Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Consensus was achieved during his talks with President Carter and other members of the Administration on all major points, the Chancellor told the press on his return from Washington. He conceded, however, that certain differences of views had remained unresolved.

Bonn and Washington, he said, had made considerable progress towards an overall Western concept, and the "remaining differences do not concern essential issues."

They result from the different geopolitical situations of the two countries and concern "nuances" in the assessment of the autonomy of Third World countries which must, in Bonn's view, be given greater emphasis than they at present receive in America.

Bonn, the Chancellor said, also has somewhat more understanding for the Islamic and above all the Arab states.

Another point on which the two countries differ is the Olympics issue.

Herr Schmidt said: "This is a nuance and not a fundamental question." The United States has indeed definitely decided not to send its athletes to Moscow while Bonn still holds that it is up to the Soviet Union to create conditions that will enable all athletes to participate in the Games.

But the Olympic issue has unwarrantedly been depicted as the central theme. After August, Herr Schmidt said, this will no longer be an issue.

The Chancellor called again on the Tehran authorities to release the US hostages. He stressed his deep sympathy with those people, the American nation and its Administration, which had shown great circumspection and acumen in handling the matter.

'Admiration' for response of President Carter

He again expressed his "admiration" for the US President and his response to the hostage affair.

Answering a journalist's question, Herr Schmidt denied ever having called the US President "incalculable", saying that this expression was launched in Moscow.

Concerning the world situation, Herr Schmidt said that the development of the crisis made it clear that the independent role of the non-aligned nations and the respect due to them were two major elements of world peace and stability.

Bonn, he said, welcomes the fact that the people of Zimbabwe, after many years of civil war, have now decided their own political future in free elections.

He wished the winner of the election, Robert Mugabe, success in his difficult task and assured him of the Federal Republic of Germany's willingness to cooperate on a partnership basis.

Dirk Cornelsen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 March 1980)

PEOPLE

No stiff upper lip from new top radio man

Bonn MP Conrad Ahlers, a former editor of *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg newsweekly, and chief government spokesman when Willy Brandt was Chancellor, has taken over as director-general of *Deutsche Welle*, the Cologne short-wave station specialising in external services.

It goes without saying that even as director-general of a radio station with a payroll of 1,400 and listeners all over the world Conrad "Conny" Ahlers, 57, does not opt for the stiff upper lip of officialdom.

Asked how he feels about his new job, he says: "I'm really looking forward to it." And he repeats a comment to which others would not so readily admit: "This one's a winner."

He has certainly had more than his fair share of luck. Even a journalist with Ahlers' experience stands only an outside chance of landing a top radio or TV job.

The political parties, intent on trying to keep tabs on the broadcasting authorities, tend to prefer administrators with legal qualifications.

Walter Steigner, 66, his predecessor, who retired on reaching the age limit, happened to be a journalist too by profession, not to mention a member of the Social Democratic Party.

Conny Ahlers is a Social Democrat too, which made matters easier, since broadcasting appointments are invariably *shared out between the parties.*

By the terms of an unwritten law the appointment of a director-general with affiliations to another party would have necessitated a party-political reshuffle all along the line.

Otherwise one party or the other would feel obliged to claim that the authority was not run by a balanced payroll.

Herr Ahlers is a somewhat unusual instance of political balance inasmuch as he has made a name for himself by getting on the wrong side of his own party.

In 1947 he was one of the founder-*members of Junge Union,* the youth organisation of the Christian Democrats, in his home town of Hamburg.

In 1968, after two years as deputy chief government spokesman in Bonn with the backing of Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, he joined the SPD.

In the 1972 general election he won Bad Kreuznach for the Social Democrats, registering a substantial gain in the number of constituency votes polled by the SPD.

But as an MP he went on to pen newspaper articles that upset not only the *Jungsozialisten;* his latest gaffe was a broadside aimed at SPD Defence Minister Hans Apel.

As a journalist he has worked for half a dozen well-known and highly reputed media. Back in 1948 he worked for the BBC German service. A year later he joined *Sonntagsblatt*, a political weekly associated with the Protestant Church.

Then he wrote for *Die Welt, Frankfurter Rundschau, Der Spiegel, Hamburger Morgenpost* and *Wirtschaftswoche.*

He really hit the headlines in 1962 when an aticle of his, *Bedingt abwehrbereit* (Defence Prepared: Up To A Point), triggered the Spiegel Affair.

Ahlers was accused of treason and arrested while on holiday in Spain. He spent two months in gaol.

Yet he later got on well with Franz Josef Strauss, who as the Minister responsible for the Spiegel Affair was forced to tender his resignation and forfeit the defence portfolio.

The service he now heads transmits 93 programmes in 34 languages (including Sanskrit) by short wave. This year the budget will be a good DM190m from the Finance Miistry's estimates.

But with cash growing harder to come by, *Deutsche Welle* may, like the BBC's once-flourishing external services, face swingeing cuts.

"I am not in the least worried our programmes might be cut," he says, and senior staff in Cologne agree that in times of crisis foreign-language external services gain in importance.

In many cases short-wave radio is then the only medium via which people in other countries can be briefed on Bonn's policies.

Does this make it a government mouthpiece? "It is not a government transmitter. It is a transmitter of the Federal Republic," Ahlers says.

Is its brief, that of conveying German views on major issues, even feasible when there are such deep-seated differences of opinion in Bonn?

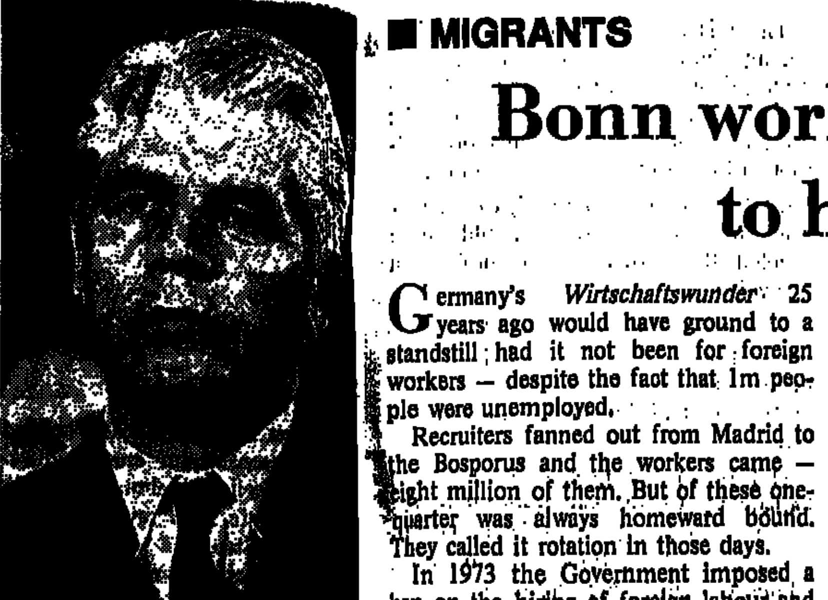
"Why not? I am all in favour of balance. I find it easy. Naturally the government's viewpoint enjoys a certain priority. It is bound to do so in transmission bound for other countries, regardless who is in power. But that doesn't mean the others must go empty-handed."

Does Herr Ahlers believe the political parties will allow him and his staff to get on with their jobs in peace and quiet?

"I am sorry to hear that now and again attempts are made to ship domestic disputes abroad via the radio station. That, of course, is quite absurd."

The indications are that any such attempt will be promptly cold-shouldered by Conny Ahlers.

His deputy, Heinz Fellhauer, a Christian Democrat, was mooted as a possible successor to Herr Steigner and is a powerful man. As administrative director of *Deutsche Welle* he is responsible for finance. He is so the authority's legal officer.



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(Photo: Sven Si

Is that not too ample an assortment of responsibilities? "This collection of responsibilities has mounted up as a result of several unfortunate coincidences including Herr Steigner's illness.

"The changes that may be considered suitable will remain to be seen. They will need discussing with the appropriate bodies and with Herr Fellhauer himself."

Among *Deutsche Welle* staff Herr Ahlers enjoys an advance reputation for being approachable, except when he is in an ill-humoured mood, which is far from infrequently.

All told he will be expected to measure up to a high standard: *the expectation* that he will run the station in a journalistic manner and back his own journalistic staff to the hilt.

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 March 1980)

A ceaseless search for Christian guidelines

When a man reaches the age of a Methusalem it is no mean thing to be able to note with respect that he is still alive and well, following the course of contemporary events with interest and understanding.

In Oswald von Nell-Breuning's case it would be a poor tribute. At the age of 90 he is not only still around; he is still an active, at times an impetuous man.

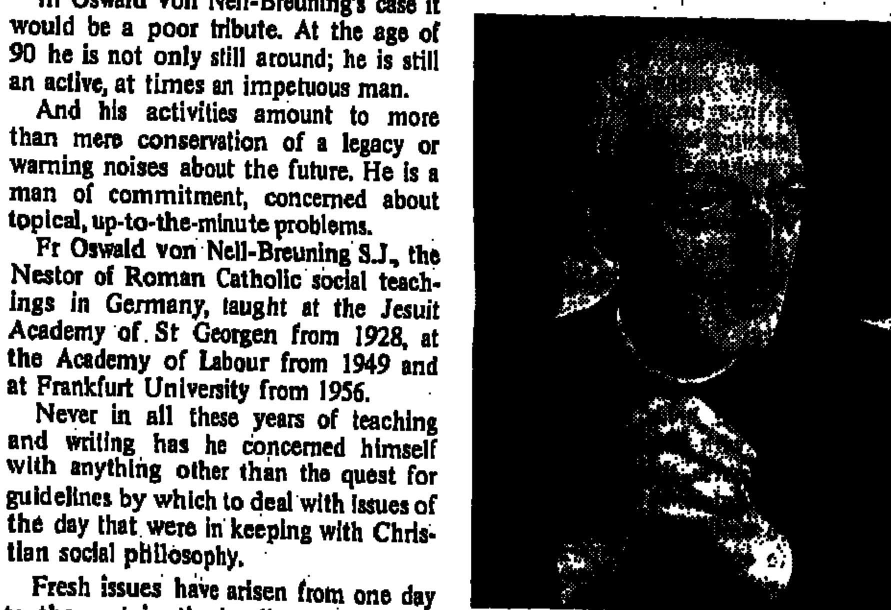
And his activities amount to more than mere conservation of a legacy or warning noises about the future. He is a man of commitment, concerned about topical, up-to-the-minute problems.

Fr Oswald von Nell-Breuning S.J., the Nestor of Roman Catholic social teachings in Germany, taught at the Jesuit Academy of St Georgen from 1928, at the Academy of Labour from 1949 and at Frankfurt University from 1956.

Never in all these years of teaching and writing has he concerned himself with anything other than the quest for guidelines by which to deal with issues of the day that were in keeping with Christian social philosophy.

Fresh issues have arisen from one day to the next in the headlong rush of industrial society and its irresistible change and transformation in the wake of technological trends.

His "praxis-orientated theory," a term borrowed from W. Schwaderlapp, whose intelligent interpretation of it has just been published by Patmos Verlag, Düsseldorf, to mark Fr Nell-Breuning's 90th birthday, has never been aimed at what might be called an ideal solution.



Oswald von Nell-Breuning

(Photo: KNA)

He has never concerned himself with a model social order or the state as he felt it should be. He has almost exclusively wondered what could be done in the given circumstances.

His interest has been in what reforms were feasible and to the point to initiate improvements in the system that would benefit everyone.

Evolution, he has always felt, is more effective than idealistic confrontation, and in principle there was only one philosophical and theological yardstick by which he could go.

His brief must be to do and try anything and everything that might promise man in general and the working man in particular more freedom and self-attainment (a much-vaunted objective).

In claiming property as a human right he did not mean a legal title to which the property-owning classes could lay claim.

Roman Catholic social teachings were misused for far too long and taught by the Church itself as a means of safeguarding traditional but unequal and inequitable property ownership.

Fr Nell-Breuning meant something else. Human nature, if it is to develop its capabilities to the full, needs its share of earthly goods and chattels, he reasoned.

Only by acquiring property does mankind learn how to assume personal responsibility for looking after things, how to care and plan, how to attain greater independence and humanity even.

Long before it became fashionable in the Roman Catholic Church to teach social commitment and the social obligations incumbent on the property-owning classes, Fr Nell-Breuning, inconvenient and critical, assumed the advocacy of the unpropertied, the have-nots.

He established a fruitful, influential relationship with the trade unions as an advocate of the single (or industrial) union idea, which was long regarded with suspicion in Church circles.

He went on to become an eloquent advocate of humanisation of the working world and a partisan of the working class who was repeatedly suspected of Marxism (but he preferred to consider the working class's alienation from the Church an intolerable "scandal").

His views were reflected in Pope Pius XI's 1931 encyclical, Quadragesimo Anno, based mainly on a draft penned by von Nell-Breuning.

The first step towards bridging the gap that had arisen as a steadily growing challenge since the 19th century (despite courageous moves towards a Church social apostolacy) had been Pope Leo XII's Novarum Rerum.

But Papal guidelines made slow progress in the Church's day-to-day routine, and Roman Catholic social teachings thus failed to dispel suspicions that they were more aimed at serving existing property relations than in questioning them and advocating appropriate reforms.

Fr Nell-Breuning has spent his life at times in virtually single[illegible]

Continued on page 7

MIGRANTS

Bonn works on a set of guidelines to hasten integration



Germany's *Wirtschaftswunder* 25 years ago would have ground to a standstill had it not been for foreign workers — despite the fact that 1m people were unemployed.

Recruiters fanned out from Madrid to the Bosporus and the workers came — eight million of them. But of these one-quarter was always homeward bound. They called it rotation in those days.

In 1973 the Government imposed a ban on the hiring of foreign labour and the influx stopped.

Some of those with us now were born in this country and speak neither their mother tongue nor German properly. But their needs are geared to the standard of living in Germany and not in Turkey's Anatolia.

In West Berlin, meanwhile, one in ten legal residents is a foreigner and one in 20 a Turk. Nation-wide, Germany has a foreign population of more than 4m, 6.5 per cent.

Schleswig-Holstein has the fewest and Berlin the most foreigners. Of the aliens living in Germany, 1m are under 18.

How is affluent Germany coping with this situation economically, socially and morally?

None of our policy makers are considering deportation or enforced Germanisation.

The number of those prepared to return home voluntarily is dwindling. They no longer view themselves as foreign workers — nor do they want to become Germans.

So what about integration?

The Bonn cabinet wants to give some guidelines to the *Länder* and the municipalities.

A senior civil servant at the Bonn Labour Ministry recently said: "Unless we come up with some more imaginative ideas, we'll be faced with an explosive situation." Statistics confirm his fears.

Of the 1.9 m foreign workers and the 100,000 jobless aliens in this country, some 600,000 are Turks.

Due to the EEC Association Agreement, they will enjoy the same freedom of movement as nationals of all other Community members come 1986.

According to a spokesman of the Employers Association, some 69 per cent of alien workers in Germany are saving for a house or apartment at home, indicating that they would like to return at some point.

But this does not apply to the second and third generation. The combined Turkish labour force abroad is estimated to have transferred home foreign exchange to the tune of $1.7bn in 1979.

Sixteen per cent of foreign children in this country are not attending compulsory schooling. Understandably so since Turkish children at home must go to school from the age of 7 to 12 only.

Thus a 12-year-old Turk in this country is considered by his parents to have finished with school.

Back in Turkey, some 800,000 children of Turkish workers in this country who receive child subsidies from the German government are waiting to be brought to Germany.

It is these newcomers or potential newcomers who pose the greatest problem for the German educational and vocational training system.

Seventy five per cent of foreign juveniles living in this country do not complete their vocational training; 60 per cent drop out of the compulsory *Hauptschule;* and 60 per cent fail to attend vocational schools.

But even the more successful of these young people are stymied by restrictive measures such as waiting times and priority for Germans when it comes to looking for a job.

In fact, most of them are excluded from our labour market and can hope for unskilled work at best — work which Germans don't want. Others are driven underground and provide new blood for criminal gangs.

Germany would thus only serve its own basic security needs by saving young foreigners from a pariah-like existence.

Last November, the Coordination Group at the Bonn Labour Ministry, consisting of employers, union representatives, the churches, two *Länder*, the Federal Labour Office, various ministries and the political parties representated in the Bundestag, put forward remedial proposals.

The proposals were adopted unanimously except for the votes of the CDU-ruled *Länder* which opposed the elimination of the "national classes" at school, involving the separation of Germans and foreigners as practised in Bavaria.

But the Coordination Group achieved consensus on several important points:

It proposes one year intensive German courses for all foreign children without *Hauptschule* graduation. This is to prepare them for their working lives and would require 20,000 study places instead of the present 7,000.

It wants legal title to access to the labour market for applicants who have taken part in such a course or have graduated from *Hauptschule.*

The two-year residence requirement before acquiring such title is to be upheld to prevent an influx of youngsters still abroad. Moreover, this waiting period is less harsh than the deadline regulation whereby those who entered the country after 1973 have no right to a work permit. The latter has encouraged illegal work.

Easier naturalisation procedures are recommended. But the deportation of juveniles who are children of foreigners living in this country and who have broken the law is to be carried out only in the most severe cases.

Other aims include: new intensive language courses for juveniles; improved occupational and social counselling; and an information campaign about the aliens problem aimed at the German population.

A representative of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) told Berlin journalists how the union saw the situation.

He said that, back in 1954, the DGB by no means welcomed the recruiting drive and considered it as a temporary measure.

He also said that it was easier to talk of international solidarity than to practise it. Even so, he went on, the DGB promoted social and labour market equality in its own interest, i.e. to prevent the formation of a reserve labour pool that would exert pressure on wages.

Pensions agreements with other countries and in favour of foreign workers are, he said, exemplary.

As far back as 1956, the DGB established its first office for Italians in Düsseldorf. Today, 37 per cent of our foreign workers are Turks and 47 per cent (more than any other group of foreigners) are unionised, compared with 33 per cent for German workers.

Of the nation's 195,000 works council members, more than 3 per cent are foreigners.

Asked what he would consider proof of a foreigner's willingness to become integrated, the union man said: "That he learns German."

There is a certain political paradox of the integration problem that Germany, which does not want to be an immigration country due to the density of its population, not only attracts foreigners but also has relatively lenient laws governing.

An Interior Ministry spokesman, for instance, said the German political asylum legislation is exemplary.

Pending final government decision, he intimated that his Ministry favours easier naturalisation procedures although this would not solve the integration problem.

He also stressed that the reactions of the countries of origin must be taken into account because many of them suspect that this is a ploy to attract their more educated citizens.

On the other hand, even the Council of Europe opposes dual citizenship because it has drawbacks for the person concerned.

For instance the legal protection a German citizen enjoys abroad would not hold true in the country of which he has a second citizenship.

According to a 1977 regulation, residence permits are usually converted into a right to residence after five years.

Meanwhile, one in four foreigners in this country enjoys this right.

Though there is no intention to couple residence and work permits, legal provisions on this issue are vague.

Welfare rights open to everyone

Another important aspect is that all foreigners in this country regardless of their legal status are entitled to social welfare. This alone is such an improvement compared with their home countries that it explains why 95 per cent of asylum applications are turned down because the applicant has come for reasons other than those warranting political asylum.

Concerning the radicalisation of foreigners — especially Turks — the Interior Ministry estimates that 10 per cent of them belong to organised political groups ranging from nationalist via Islam movements all the way to Marxist extremists.

Bonn disagrees with Berlin's Senator of the Interior that the danger comes primarily from the rightist groups.

But Berlin journalists hold that Bonn has not draw its conclusions from the established fact that trouble breaks out sooner in Berlin than in other parts of the country.

Berlin Senator Heimann, who had just completed a fact-finding tour on the integration of aliens, did not contradict this contention.

Günter Matthes

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 March 1980)

Programme seeks to ease regulations employment

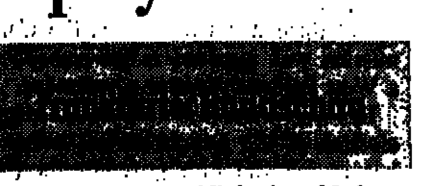
The more than 1m foreign juveniles who live or were born in the Federal Republic of Germany are to be given a legal claim to a work permit.

Moreover, they are not to be placed at a disadvantage when applying for an apprenticeship or a job provided they have the same qualifications as their German counterparts.

These are the major points of an extensive political programme that has been coordinated between the Bonn ministries concerned and presented to the Chancellor and the cabinet.

The cabinet session at which the programme will be dealt with is scheduled for 19 March.

The project has been worked [illegible]



marily by the Bonn Ministries of Labour, Interior and Education.

The Interior Ministry also supports an initiative by North Rhine-Westphalia that would enable the children of foreigners aged between 18 and 21 and belonging to the second or third generation (most of them born in this country) to apply for German citizenship.

B[illegible] other conservative *Länder* are [illegible]ted a final decision. [illegible] insistence that the [illegible]he committees.

According to Bonn proposals, policy makers in the labour and education sectors both in Bonn and in the *Länder* are to ensure that the transition from school to job training is made easier for foreign juveniles.

This is to include extensive pilot programmes for training in quasi-governmental facilities; intensive German language courses for older juveniles who have come to this country to join their parents; and stepped-up measures to prepare them for their working lives.

These courses, organised by the Federal Labour Office, are also to enable some of the dropouts to complete their education.

The Labour Ministry is to start an information campaign for the German population, which to some extent rejects this integration and naturalisation policy, and enlighten it about the problems involved.

Jutta Roitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 March 1980)

■ PEOPLE

No stiff upper lip from new top radio man

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Asked how he feels about his new job, he says: "I'm really looking forward to it." And he repeats a comment to which others would not so readily admit: "This one's a winner."

He has certainly had more than his fair share of luck. Even a journalist with Ahlers' experience stands only an outside chance of landing a top radio or TV job.

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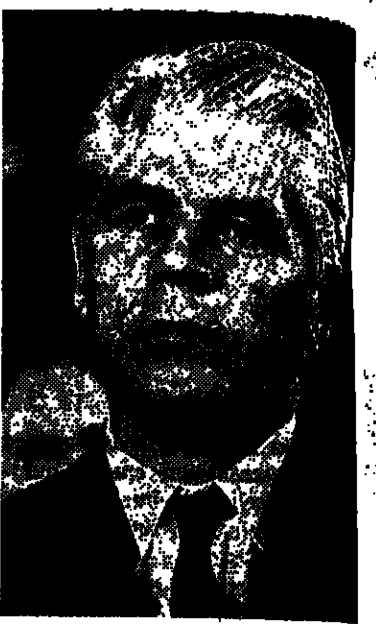
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(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 March 1980)

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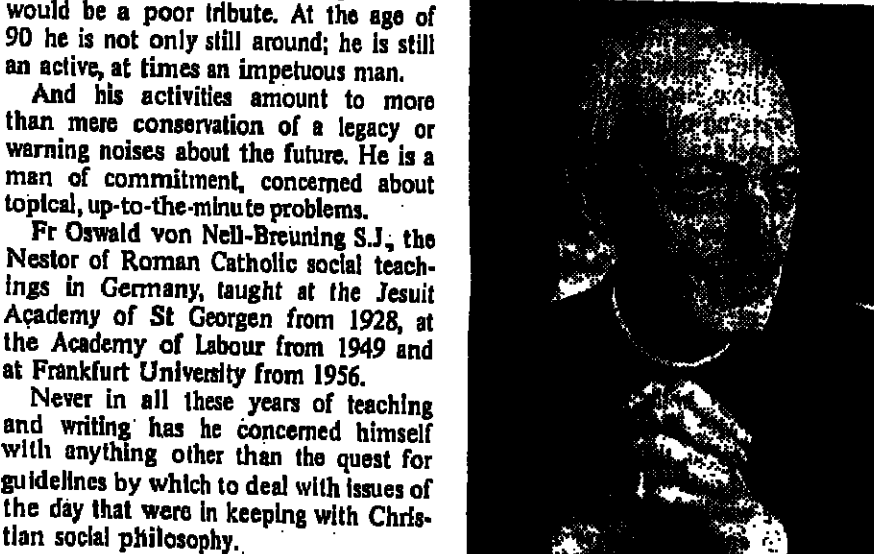
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Continued on page 7

■ MIGRANTS

Bonn works on a set of guidelines to hasten integration

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So what about integration?

The Bonn cabinet wants to give some guidelines to the *Länder* and the municipalities.

A senior civil servant at the Bonn Labour Ministry recently said: "Unless we come up with some more imaginative ideas, we'll be faced with an explosive situation." Statistics confirm his fears.

Of the 1.9 m foreign workers and the 100,000 jobless aliens in this country, some 600,000 are Turks.

Due to the EEC Association Agreement, they will enjoy the same freedom of movement as nationals of all other Community members come 1986.

According to a spokesman of the Employers Association, some 69 per cent of alien workers in Germany are saving for a house or apartment at home, indicating that they would like to return at some point.

But this does not apply to the second and third generation. The combined Turkish labour force abroad is estimated to have transferred home foreign exchange to the tune of $1.7bn in 1979.

Sixteen per cent of foreign children in this country are not attending compulsory schooling. Understandably so since Turkish children at home must go to school from the age of 7 to 12 only.

Thus a 12-year-old Turk in this country is considered by his parents to have finished with school.

Back in Turkey, some 800,000 children of Turkish workers in this country who receive child subsidies from the German government are waiting to be brought to Germany.

It is these newcomers or potential newcomers who pose the greatest problem for the German educational and vocational training system.

Seventy five per cent of foreign juve-

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

niles living in this country do not complete their vocational training; 60 per cent drop out of the compulsory *Hauptschule;* and 60 per cent fail to attend vocational schools.

But even the more successful of these young people are stymied by restrictive measures such as waiting times and priority for Germans when it comes to looking for a job.

In fact, most of them are excluded from our labour market and can hope for unskilled work at best — work which Germans don't want. Others are driven underground and provide new blood for criminal gangs.

Germany would thus only serve its own basic security needs by saving young foreigners from a pariah-like existence.

Last November, the Coordination Group at the Bonn Labour Ministry, consisting of employers, union representatives, the churches, two *Länder,* the Federal Labour Office, various ministries and the political parties representated in the Bundestag, put forward remedial proposals.

The proposals were adopted unanimously except for the votes of the CDU-ruled *Länder* which opposed the elimination of the "national classes" at school, involving the separation of Germans and foreigners as practised in Bavaria.

But the Coordination Group achieved consensus on several important points:

It proposes one year intensive German courses for all foreign children without *Hauptschule* graduation. This is to prepare them for their working lives and would require 20,000 study places instead of the present 7,000.

It wants legal title to access to the labour market for applicants who have taken part in such a course or have graduated from *Hauptschule.*

The two-year residence requirement before acquiring such title is to be upheld to prevent an influx of youngsters still abroad. Moreover, this waiting period is less harsh than the deadline regulation whereby those who entered the country after 1973 have no right to a work permit. The latter has encouraged illegal work.

Easier naturalisation procedures are recommended. But the deportation of juveniles who are children of foreigners living in this country and who have broken the law is to be carried out only in the most severe cases.

Other aims include: new intensive language courses for juveniles; improved occupational and social counselling; and an information campaign about the aliens problem aimed at the German population.

A representative of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) told Berlin journalists how the union saw the situation.

He said that, back in 1954, the DGB by no means welcomed the recruiting drive and considered it as a temporary measure.

He also said that it was easier to talk of international solidarity than to practise it. Even so, he went on, the DGB promoted social and labour market equality in its own interest, i.e. to prevent the formation of a reserve labour pool that would exert pressure on wages.

Pensions agreements with other countries and in favour of foreign workers are, he said, exemplary.

As far back as 1956, the DGB established its first office for Italians in Düsseldorf. Today, 37 per cent of our foreign workers are Turks and 47 per cent (more than any other group of foreigners) are unionised, compared with 33 per cent for German workers.

Of the nation's 195,000 works council members, more than 3 per cent are foreigners.

Asked what he would consider proof of a foreigner's willingness to become integrated, the union man said: "That he learns German."

There is a certain political paradox of the integration problem that Germany, which does not want to be an immigration country due to the density of its population, not only attracts foreigners but also has relatively lenient laws governing.

An Interior Ministry spokesman, for instance, said the German political asylum legislation is exemplary.

Pending final government decision, he intimated that his Ministry favours easier naturalisation procedures although this would not solve the integration problem.

He also stressed that the reactions of the countries of origin must be taken into account because many of them suspect that this is a ploy to attract their more educated citizens.

On the other hand, even the Council of Europe opposes dual citizenship because it has drawbacks for the person concerned.

For instance the legal protection a German citizen enjoys abroad would not hold true in the country of which he has a second citizenship.

According to a 1977 regulation, residence permits are usually converted into a right to residence after five years.

Meanwhile, one in four foreigners in this country enjoys this right.

Though there is no intention to couple residence and work permits, legal provisions on this issue are vague.

Welfare rights open to everyone

Another important aspect is that all foreigners in this country regardless of their legal status are entitled to social welfare. This alone is such an improvement compared with their home countries that it explains why 95 per cent of asylum applications are turned down because the applicant has come for reasons other than those warranting political asylum.

Concerning the radicalisation of foreigners — especially Turks — the Interior Ministry estimates that 10 per cent of them belong to organised political groups ranging from nationalist via Islam movements all the way to Marxist extremists.

Bonn disagrees with Berlin's Senator of the Interior that the danger comes primarily from the rightist groups.

But Berlin journalists hold that Bonn has not draw its conclusions from the established fact that trouble breaks out sooner in Berlin than in other parts of the country.

Berlin Senator Heimann, who had just completed a fact-finding tour on the integration of aliens, did not contradict this contention.

Günter Matthes

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 March 1980)

Programme seeks to ease regulations employment

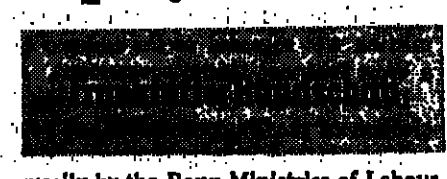
The more than 1m foreign juveniles who live or were born in the Federal Republic of Germany are to be given a legal claim to a work permit.

Moreover, they are not to be placed at a disadvantage when applying for an apprenticeship or a job provided they have the same qualifications as their German counterparts.

These are the major points of an extensive political programme that has been coordinated between the Bonn ministries concerned and presented to the Chancellor and the cabinet.

The cabinet session at which the programme will be dealt with is scheduled for 19 March.

The project has been worked out pri-



marily by the Bonn Ministries of Labour, Interior and Education.

The Interior Ministry also supports an initiative by North Rhine-Westphalia that would enable the children of foreigners aged between 18 and 21 and belonging to the second or third generation (most of them born in this country) to apply for German citizenship.

But the other conservative *Länder* are said to have prevented a final decision.

It was upon their insistence that the bill was sent back to the committees.

According to Bonn proposals, policy makers in the labour and education sectors both in Bonn and in the *Länder* are to ensure that the transition from school to job training is made easier for foreign juveniles.

This is to include extensive pilot programmes for training in quasi-governmental facilities; intensive German language courses for older juveniles who have come to this country to join their parents; and stepped-up measures to prepare them for their working lives.

These courses, organised by the Federal Labour Office, are also to enable some of the dropouts to complete their education.

The Labour Ministry is to start an information campaign for the German population, which to some extent rejects this integration and naturalisation policy, and enlighten it about the problems involved.

Jutta Roitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 March 1980)

■ THE EEC

MPs' workload leaves little time for local constituents

A voter campaign to "Ring your Euro MP and Complain" would be a little difficult. The constituent would not know whether to call Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Brussels, Bonn or his own constituency.

And then the Euro MP might have difficulties answering queries. For he *doesn't have much time to look after his* constituents in between spending each month, a week each at conferences and plenary sessions in Strasbourg and two weeks of committee work in Brussels.

To make matters worse, everything must be translated into all Community languages, which causes delays and does not exactly make for efficiency.

A great many of the MPs have actively complained about this. Katharina Focke (SPD) attributes this four-week rhythm largely to the fact that for many MPs the money they get for attending sessions obviously provides a major material incentive.

Says Herbert W. Köhler (CDU): "The appointment books of Euro-MPs are much more crowded than those of their Bonn counterparts."

Jochen van Aerssen (CDU) points out that in North Rhine-Westphalia, for instance, a mere 25 Euro-MPs have to look after constituencies totalling 17 million people.

And it will take until June for them to be allocated offices in Brussels and Strasbourg. *Perhaps it will then be easier to reach them by phone.*

Polls (the socalled Eurobarometer) show that in October 1979, only four months after the European election, one in three MPs no longer remembered when the election took place. So are they working in a vacuum, so to speak?

The Euro-MPs say no. Van Aerssen speaks of "a very great response" among the electorate and Köhler even goes so far as to speak of an "unusually great response."

But Martin Bangemann (FDP) tones this down, saying that the response was much greater in the other Community nations than in Germany. But this changed when the Parliament rejected the Community budget.

It is certainly true that the Europarliament had a bad time last spring and summer so far as public interest was concerned. The direct election increased the number of MPs from the earlier 198 to 410. So it was obvious that the thus enlarged Parliament needed new procedural regulations, and bickering over such technical issues is most unlikely to arouse public interest.

And then there was the fact that a small group of radicals around Marco Pannella and Emma Ponino put forward some 5,000 motions for amendments, aimed at gaining recognition for themselves as a major party.

Incidentally, they were successful. Köhler refers to those days as "frightful convulsions."

But many of his colleagues have a positive attitude towards those debates. Mechthild von Alemann (FDP) views the whole thing as an important decision on the rights of minority groups in the Europarliament. It also taught the Euro-MPs to adjust to the Latin temperament.

Frau Focke, too, approves of this concession to the radicals, calling it "the



Europarliament's most positive decision apart from the rejection last December *of the draft budget for 1980.*"

This, says Herr Bangemann, proves the Europarliament's determination to "impose its will."

On the one hand, the Euro-MPs were no longer prepared to tolerate the high price of agricultural produce which encourages surplus production and, on the other, they were not prepared to put up with the Council of Minister's unilateral action when it pared down budget items on which the Europarliament has a say and which it wanted increased.

One Euro-MP says that the Council of Ministers treated the Parliament with contempt. For months, he says, the Council refused to negotiate the issue and when it did take a stand it was not done by the ministers but by civil servants.

He even goes so far as to say that it is quite possible that the new budget will also be rejected if the Council waters it down.

According to Köhler, the decisive factor in whether the Europarliament proves itself or not will be more uniform election laws.

Bangemann speaks of a "must". If this were done, he says, the British Liberals would at last find themselves with a clear road to Strasbourg.

Van Aerssen is adamant in insisting that the Europarliament develop into a constituent assembly for Europe which would introduce basic rights for the 260 million Community citizens.

Bangemann seconds this, stressing that it was above all the Liberals who were pressing the introduction of such basic rights for the Community.

The Euro-MPs are now engaged in a dogged battle against the "itinerant circus" as they call it, which forces them to shuttle between Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels.

Not only does this fray their nerves but it also costs the taxpayer some DM10m a year for travel and rents.

The Socialists and Christian Democrats only recently called on the nine governements to agree at last on a single seat of Parliament. Unless they do so by the end of the year, the MPs will step up their pressure.

Though the Europarliament cannot pick its seat, it is free to choose the place where it wants to work. Using this as a lever, they have already started preparing Luxembourg for this function.

There is also plenty of self-criticism among Euro-MPs. Frau Focke, for instance, deplores the chaos and confusion during the Janauary Afghanistan debate: every party presented its own motion though the differences were minimal.

What was needed, she said, were steering mechanisms that would have enabled the Parliament to speak with one voice.

In the old Europarliament it was primarly the floor leaders of the three major parties (Socialists, Christian Democrats and Liberals) who had a say.

Not so in the new, directly elected Parliament where communications between Egon Klepsch (Christian Democrats), Bangemann (Liberals) and Ernest Glinne (Socialists) are very poor.

Frau Focke: "The European Parliament must at some point show political unity."

Mechthild von Alemann sees it so: "The Parliament must not view itself as a mini UN General Assembly and become as fragmented as the United Nations. Verbal duels for their own sake are worthless."

Another Euro-MP puts it this way: "The Europarliament is not a ship yet. Much work is still to be done in the shipyard."

Some Euro-MPs have already capitulated in the face of the hard work expected of them, among them union bosses Eugen Loderer and Karl Hauenschild. And French Communist Party leader Georges Marchais makes only guest appearances.

Klaus Bohnhof

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 March 1980)

Reluctance to make 'necessary structural changes'

The most serious weakness of the European Community is, by consensus, the fact that the Council of Ministers cannot make quick decisions.

This was one of the reasons why Klaus von Dohnanyi put forward the idea that the Secretary General of the council be a politician of stature.

His role should be similar to that of the Nato Secretary General.

But von Dohnanyi, who is in charge of European affairs at the Bonn Foreign Office, angered many Eurocrats.

If his suggestion were taken up, the critics say, the EEC Commission would be politically devalued even more than it already is under its present president, Roy Jenkins, and there would be even less cohesion among the 13 commissioners.

Yet there was a time when the Commission was regarded as the embryo of a West European federal government.

But ever since the trouble the direct election of the Europarliament last year has caused the nine governments (last December the Europarliament rejected the EEC budget for 1980) everybody shies away from more experiments and a possible shift of power.

Although Luxembourg's Foreign Minister (and ex-prime minister) Gaston Thorn still hopes to become president of the Comission in 1981 and impart more political pep, others favour Roy Jenkins presidency for another two years.

As long as "national egotism" remains, France's and Britain's basic po-



litical attitude, there is no reason why Bonn should wish for a politically more ambitious Commission.

Though Thorn has always wanted Bonn to assume a leadership role in the EEC, this would lead to spychological rejection among the other Community nations and would harm Bonn's interest in protecting what remains of "national scope of action."

"National" in this context is not restricted to the Federal Republic of Germany but also relates to the long-term interests of a divided nation.

Even FDP Chairman and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has told Europe's liberals to do nothing that would jeopardise Thorn's chances.

But that probably simply means that the FDP is not interested in yet another open conflict with the other European liberals (this is a reference to Euro-MP Martin Bangemann who was instrumental last summer in electing Simone Veil rather than Thorn as speaker of the directly elected Europarliament).

So, even if it seems pretty certain that the EEC Commission will not be reshuffled entirely in 1981, there is nevertheless a certain trend towards change.

It is unlikely that Holland's Christian Democrat-Liberal coalition government will again nominate the Socialist EEC Social Affairs Commissioner Henk Vredeling.

The Irish, with their strong interest in the Community, are also unlikely to be satisfied with their inconspicuous commissioner, Richard Burke (fiscal and consumer affairs), as are the Luxembourgers with their Raymond Vouel.

Observers hold that he is influenced by the German EEC director-general for matters of competition, Willy Schlieder.

The Danish EEC Agriculture Commissioner, Finn Gundelach, hopes that his radical agricultural policy aimed at dampening price increases will qualify him as Jenkins' successor, but France, Ireland and Belgium are sure to put in their veto should Copenhagen nominate him.

Bonn and Rome are particularly hard put in trying to fill Brussels posts. Granted, the Italian Christian Democrat Malfatti, who had at one time been a rather poor performer as Commission president, finally made it to foreign minister until he had a heart attack.

But neither he nor Commissioner Lorenzo Natali (Christian Democrat in charge of the EEC enlargement) nor Antonio Giolitti (in charge of regional affairs) are likely to leave a clear imprint in Brussels should they be nominated.

Of the German commissioners (present and past) none was successful in returning to national politics.

As a result, most potential candidates are loath to go to Brussels in the first place.

Commissioner for Energy Policy Guido Brunner (FDP) is extremely well known even in the Opec countries and the United States, but he recently made an all-out bid to get a constituency for a Bundestag mandate in Baden-Württem-

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■ THE ECONOMY

Growth target remains despite the gloom



The Bonn Government is to stick to a 2.5 per cent growth target — despite world-wide economic turbulence in the wake of dramatic oil price increases, a looming East-West economic war and bleak forecasts.

Although tens of thousands of additional job seekers will be crowding the labour market, Bonn is still confident that average unemployment this year will drop to below 4 per cent.

The Government's intentions were made clear at the opening of the Frankfurt Spring Fair by the Secretary of State at the Economic Affairs Ministry, Martin Grüner, who stood in for his minister, who was ill.

If there were a medal for optimism in the face of adversity, Herr Grüner would certainly be eligible.

He performed a high-wire rhetoric act so as not to cause defeatism among manufacturers of consumer goods and to assure consumers that they have been doing their duty to the nation.

Herr Grüner said that consumers neither saved excessively because of the fear of recession nor spent too much because of fears of inflation.

Yet there is reason for concern over the development of prices. The inflation rate in this country has once more topped the 5 per cent mark.

Though this would be a superb figure for many of our neighbours, for us it is bad news. No-one can say today that 5 per cent inflation is better than 5 per cent unemployment.

Experience in the 70s has shown that this formula, coined by Helmut Schmidt some years ago, does not apply. Galloping inflation causes growing unemployment in a very short time.

Other countries have also come to realise that the "sweet poison of inflation" provides temporary relief at best and that the problems on the labour market soon increase.

But a society that has had too much of this poison finds it extremely difficult to rid itself of the addiction.

France's Prime Minister, Raymond Barre, has been waging his battle against inflation with remarkable political courage and much determination — but so far in vain.

Whether Margaret Thatcher will be luckier remains to be seen. Right now, it looks as if her economic medicine will have the opposite effect: unemployment and inflation are rising at pretty much the same rate. Prices in Britain are 17 per cent higher than they were a year ago.

The Americans have also failed in breaking the vicious circle of inflation. Unlike the British, French and Germans, they managed in the 70s to create millions of new jobs, employing the classical instruments of economic policy, but they failed to curb wages and prices.

At present, they have an inflation rate of more than 18 per cent.

Inflation has become a civilisation disease of affluent Western democracies because politicians think only of re-election. They distribute election gifts that have no solid financial basis.

Only rarely do they interfere in the struggle for the distribution of incomes between the major social groups with the necessary toughness.

They succumb time and again to the short-term rescue of threatened jobs by subsidising ailing companies or by protecting them from competition.

Later, they lack the courage to face the withdrawal pains due to the opposition of powerful groups and lobbies.

In Germany, we have always managed to get away by the skin of our teeth because of our deep-rooted fear of inflation. The Bundesbank has therefore always steered an anti-inflationary course and forced the politicians to step on the brakes as soon as the inflation rate in other countries was only just approaching the danger threshold.

Twice, however, our economic policy makers almost lost control over inflation. But in 1967, on one of these occasions, the then Finance Minister, Karl Schiller, pulled the emergency brake in good time and stopped the trend.

Inflation — a mixed bag

1979 percentage cost of living increases over 1978

Country	%
Japan	3.6
Austria	3.7
Holland	4.2
Norway	4.8
Denmark	9.6
USA	11.3
Britain	13.4
Spain*	15.7
Portugal	23.6
Turkey	63.5
Greece*	18.5
Italy	14.8
Ireland	13.3
France	10.8
Sweden	7.2
Belgium/Lux.	4.5
Fed. Rep. of Germany	4.1
Switzerland	3.6

*Jan.-Nov. 1429

After 1973, when the inflation rate went beyond 7 per cent, it took much longer for the brakes to grip. In neither of these two instances did the guardians of our money manage to get the inflation down to the point where it was when it started running away.

As a result, the next wave started at a higher level.

While experts are still arguing about whether or not there will be another economic setback in the autumn and whether unemployment will rise again, it seems already certain that the inflation rate has exceeded the limit we set ourselves.

In February, consumer prices rose by 5.5 per cent.

Martin Grüner and other Government representatives keep saying that they are confident that the average annual inflation rate won't exceed 4.5 per cent. But it takes a great deal of faith to stick to this barely tenable target.

Unlike in earlier years, curbing inflation has been made more difficult because some of its important roots are abroad.

Above all the dramatic increase of energy and raw materials prices has obviously had a severe effect on a country as dependent on imports as Germany.

This is particularly pronounced because, unlike in the 70s, the higher prices can no longer be cushioned by the appreciation of the deutschemark.

On the contrary, the dollar has been rising against the German currency, making oil and raw materials even more expensive.

This means that our incomes in real terms are falling and the buying power of the deutschemark is lessening.

National economic policy can do little to counter this aspect of inflation. We have to come to terms with it as a farmer must come to terms with hail.

This being so, it is more than arrogant of Heinz Kluncker, boss of the Public Sector Workers Union, to demand wage hikes of 9 per cent.

The fact that, as in 1974, he is threatening to have his people go on strike is a provocation of the public and the Bonn Government.

A major factor in boosting inflation

It was generally assumed that the memory of the 1974 wage struggle against the taxpayer would embarrass even a man like Kluncker. At that time the union demanded two-digit wage hikes which were a major factor in boosting inflation and unemployment in the following years. It also contributed to the fall of Willy Brandt who was Chancellor at the time.

There is yet another reason why Kluncker should have been embarrassed to demand nine per cent: The printers and the metalworkers have been satisfied with less than 7 per cent.

Naturally, everybody knows that a 9 per cent demand does not mean a nine per cent settlement but in all likelihood something in the region of 7 per cent.

Still, the public sector workers, mostly civil servants, are doing well enough already and their jobs are secure even if there should be an economic setback.

It would therefore have been more appropriate for Herr Kluncker to have demanded somewhat less than the steel and metalworkers.

Strictly speaking, even their deals were too high because there simply is not the money left to pay for them once the oil and raw materials bills have been settled. But it takes some time for excessive expectations to be brought in line with realities.

Meanwhile, we must do everything to keep the inflation rate from getting out of control. Since our economic policy instruments can only be used to curb the home-made part of our inflation, we must use them as extensively as possible in that sector — no matter how much it hurts.

The number of bankruptcies and lost jobs will be the greater the later we start to cure the addiction.

Michael Jungblut

(Die Zeit, 7 March 1980)

Continued from page 6

berg and get a safe place on the FDP ticket.

Foreign Affairs Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp (SPD), who is equally well known, though unfortunately primarily because of his expense accounts, evidently has no serious competitors in his party at present.

Perhaps it would really be in Bonn's interest to make use of the personal contacts of the two German commissioners in the forthcoming two-year period of office.

But it is noteworthy that the former Irish commissioner, Hillary, became president of his country and the former vice-president of the Commission, Frenchman Raymond Barre, is now his country's prime minister.

Should there ever be a Socialist president in France, the obvious candidate would be the present development commissioner, Claude Cheysson.

He and his Belgian counterpart, Industrial Affairs Commissioner Etienne Davignon, are the two most outstanding personalities of the present commission while the Gaullist Commission Vice-President, Francois Ortoli, pales in comparison with his fellow countrymen in the Commission.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 March 1980)

Search for Christian guidelines

Continued from page 4

trying to clarify this incongruity, and he has left no stone unturned in his bid to gain acceptance of working-class rights.

The friendly feelings the trade unions have about him testify to this, his life's work. Not for nothing was he awarded the trade unions' Hans Böckler Prize on his 90th birthday. Take, for that matter, the appreciation of his services expressed by Chancellor Brandt on his 80th birthday.

His greatest success may well be considered to have been the 1959 Bad Godesberg manifesto of the Social Democratic Party, which he felt was a "short primer of Catholic social teachings."

So Oswald Nell-Breuning is still teaching and still writing at he age of 90 and has every intention of continuing to do so. Commitment will continue to be his hallmark, not serenity.

His Christian view of humanity is a yardstick for future reformers who may aim at following in his footsteps for which no social system has yet proved adequate.

Albert Wucher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 March 1980)





■ SCIENCE

Warning over untapped energy sources

Enormous amounts of energy liberated around the world go virtually unused. The sun, for instance, shines about 174,000 terawatt hours a year earthwards, one terawatt being 1,000 million kilowatts.

About 33 terawatts are liberated as heat from the bowels of the earth and a further 3.3 are *unleashed by tidal waves* all over the world.

But these figures must not be taken as an occasion for jubilation when compared with current world energy consumption totalling 7.6 terawatt hours, or 8.2bn tonnes of coal equivalent.

This warning note was sounded at an energy forum held on the occasion of the annual conference of the German Physics Association in Bielefeld by Professor Lehner of the University of Stuttgart.

Energy-saving and regenerative energy sources were the chief topics discussed at the forum, which he was quick to remind that energy resources must be regarded not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of their locally available density.

In Aswan, Egypt, sunshine accounts for roughly 2,540 kilowatt hours per square metre per annum. In Munich the figure is 1,140, in Stockholm, Sweden, a mere 920 kilowatt hours.

Assuming further that 10 per cent of the sunshine can be harnessed to generate *electric power (which is roughly the efficiency* of good silicium solar cells), the corresponding potential is available.

In Aswan 254 kilowatts per square metre might presumably be harnessed from the sunshine, as against 114 kilowatts in Munich and 92 kilowatts in Stockholm.

A further problem is that solar power stations must necessarily be designed to harness the total power nominally available, whereas in practice poor weather may put paid to the equation.

Besides, as is always the case where power supplies vary, difficulties occur with storage and transport.

Conventional solar cells may be admirable in performance and lifespan, but their widespread use stands and falls with the cost, which is currently at least DM20 per watt and would need to be substantially reduced before becoming economic.

Professor Bloss, also of Stuttgart University, told physicists in Bielefeld that developments are, however, in progress.

As a substitute for conventional silicium solar cells thin-layer solar cells have been developed for large-scale use, and they use less material, are less trouble to manufacture and cost less too.

Thin-layer copper sulphide cells have been developed to the point at which they achieve about 8 per cent efficiency.

Combinations of various kinds of thin-layer solar cells are, moreover, expected to harness about 30 per cent of the solar power available.

Thin-layer cells of amorphous silicium have likewise assumed great importance as a stepping stone for further developments.

But the problem of variable energy density remains, and this variation is what may well put a damper on the original enthusiasm when schemes were first costed.

Professor Lehner added that in assessing solar collectors and heat pumps a clear distinction must be made between room heating and water heating.

At present, he said, it was doubtful whether collectors would ever be able to compete with heat pumps in central heating.

Collectors did not enjoy a clear advantage in water heating either. Hybrids could well prove a more satisfactory solution.

On balance he felt solar energy would one day assume greater importance as a power source than other regenerative energy resources.

But such difficulties arose in using it that developments in this sector could only be viewed on a long-term basis.

So it would be as well to keep al options open, thereby ensuring that no potential usage would be either written off or overriden.

Herr Stöcker of Jülich nuclear research centre dealt with developments in harnessing heat from the sea, the tides, the waves and geothermic heat, all of which are virtual non-starters for West Germany.

He then dealt with wind power. Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff said in a written answer to a Bundestag question at the end of January that wind power could well rival hydroelectric power as a supplier to the national grid.

In other words, it could meet about 8 per cent of demand, always providing, of course, that the research backed by the Ministry proved a success.

This, for the most part, means Growian, a pilot project with twin rotors 100m in diameter and its hub at an altitude of 100m that is intended to generate up to 3 kilowatts.

Growian I is scheduled to be built at Kaiser-Wilhelm-Koog, near Brunsbüttel, north of Hamburg.

Herr Stöcker still feels idling periods may give rise to technical difficulties, but they are nothing in comparison with the capital investment required, since each unit would need to be designed to withstand the worst conceivable gale.

Besides, suitable windspeeds could only be expected in coastal areas of Germany. Harnessing wind power was an intriguing proposition but technical difficulties remained to be solved.

At the outset Professor Meyer Abich of Essen University had taken a closer look at the concept of energy. Saving energy or cutting back demand were not, he said, the final objective.

What was needed was to meet requirements of energy-related services and other conveniences of modern living. So any appraisal of energy must take technological know-how, capital and labour into account too.

The aim must be to strike the ideal balance between the four. Capital, for instance, could be used to carry out energy saving and to develop related know-how.

Indeed, energy saving as an "alternative source of energy" had only really been discovered when the oil crisis had upset the previous balance.

An entirely different issue had assumed importance, Professor Meyer Abich said.

What was needed was a comprehensive report on the social compatibility of alternative energy sources.

Rolf H. Simen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 March 1980)

Forum discusses planet's origin

Scientists are still keenly debating the origins of planet earth, which is an estimated four billion years old, and current research was reviewed at the Alfred Wegener symposium in West Berlin.

The symposium was held at the end of February in memory of the birth centenary of Alfred Wegener, the Marburg scientist whose name will always be associated with the continental drift theory.

"The further back we go," said Professor Volker Jacobshagen in Berlin, "the less enthusiastically and the more cautiously are geologists prepared to commit themselves."

What actually happened when the earth took shape is no more than scientific surmise — virtual legend.

An old theory had it that the earth's crust was originally covered entirely in water, but current opinion is that the hydrosphere has undergone a change.

Water was probably released from the earth's interior, or mainly so, as can still be observed during volcanic activity.

It has presumably been in existence, as ice, since the beginnings of the earth when, to put it in simple terms, the planet was conglomerated from heaps of cosmic rubble under the influence of increasing gravitation.

Water was stored in minerals and later released during volcanic activity, said West Berlin geologist Professor Klaus Joachim Reuter.

The earth's state four and a half billion years or so ago is assumed to have been comparable with that of the asteroids that ply their way between Mars and Jupiter.

There can be no doubt that convection took place from the beginning of time, with the earth radiating heat from a hot core, thereby establishing the precondition for the formation of Panthalassa, the original ocean.

Yet geologists and geophysicists nonetheless deem it unlikely that water ever fully covered the earth's surface.

Science may yet to have unravelled the secrets of the earth's origins but Alfred Wegener's continental drift theory has gained widespread acceptance.

It assumes there to have been an original continent, Pangaia, consisting of Laurasia in the north (later to become North America and Eurasia) and Gondwana in the south (later to become South America and Africa).

Still further south three more landmasses moved towards their present location 200 million years later as Antarctica, India and Australia.

Between Laurasia and Gondwana Tethys, an arm of the sea took shape 180 million years ago. It was a forerunner of the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean is thus an ocean of long standing surrounded by relatively recent mountain ranges, and it is extremely popular with geologists and geophysicists.

It is an unruly region, due to the gradual return of Africa towards Europe and the geological havoc this wreaks.

Mountains in and around Crete are still growing a centimetre a year, or 100 times faster than the Alps. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 1 March 1980)

More evidence of slowing earth rotation

The speed at which the earth on its axis is declining and th are growing ever longer, scientis philosophers have long suspected.

Evidence in support of this distu ting theory was the subject of many interesting papers read to a day Mainz meeting of extra-ter physicists in the first week in Marc

Astronomers and cosmochemists attended the symposium, which with the origin of the solar system.

Professor Peter Brosche of Bonn versity said the speed of the earth's tion was slowing down at a rate of milliseconds per century.

This may not seem unduly alarm but as geologists would be the fir point out, it all adds up in the cour a few billion years.

The late 18th-century philoso Immanuel Kant suspected that the system might be slowing down earth's rotation speed.

But not until 1963 did a palaeont gist prove that days had been shorte past geological eras.

In 1955 another scientist worked that a few billion years ago earth moon were in dangerous proximity fo while.

Gigantic tidal waves must have ro the earth, but geological evidence support of this theory has yet to be earthed.

Professor Th. Schmidt-Karler of Bo chum University told the symposium that neutrinos, elementary particles take shape during hydrogen fusion inside the sun and reach ear minutes later, have lately declined frequency.

Scientists conclude that the sun ups and downs, or cyclical spates of tivity and relative inactivity.

Unlike neutrinos, photons (the rays energy on which the earth lives) 6,000 years to reach the surface of the sun.

A number of scientists thus expe there to be a new ice age 6,000 ye from now.

Over the past 10 years astronome have made progress on the theory how stars originate.

They are formed, Professor Schmi Karler said, when dark clouds, or dense clouds of cosmic dust, are co densed at the edge of spiral arms shock waves.

The shock waves to which he refer could, for instance, emanate from explosion of a supernova in the relat vicinity.

Scientists are fairly sure stars are c rently in the process of formation Orion, a dark cloud of this kind.

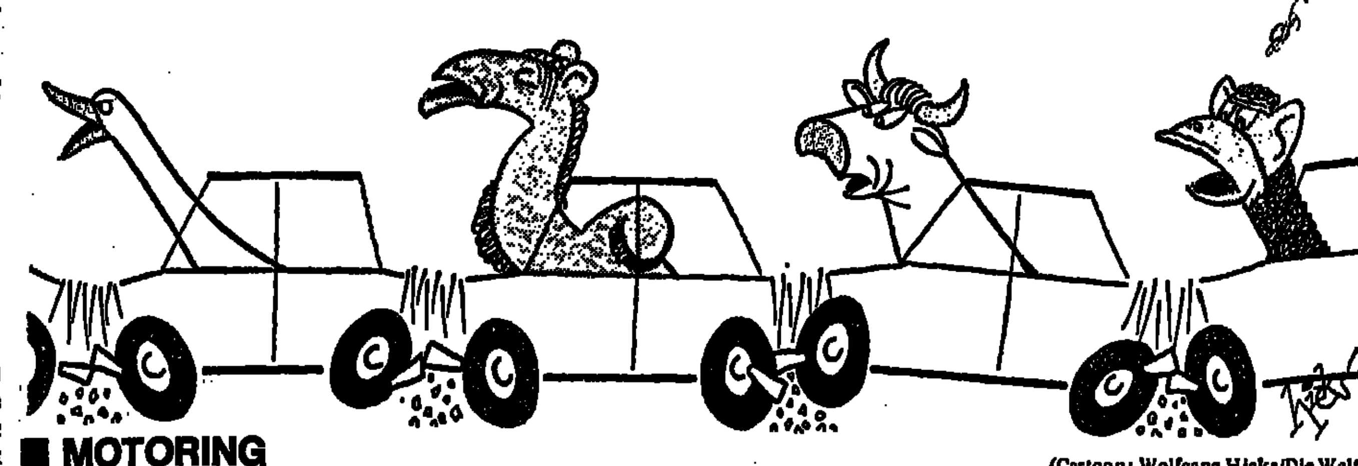
X-ray astronomers have been prob the origins of the universe for 18 ye Their discipline only dates back to 19 when the first cosmic X-ray source discovered.

Since November 1978 the Unit States has had an X-ray satellite, dubb the Einstein Observatory, from whi this observation has been made.

The discovery was facilitated by t development of a highly sensitive tele cope by Hans Wolter, a German phy cist.

In West Germany work is in progres on an X-ray satellite, Robisat, that scheduled for launching in the mid-80 to point a large-sized telescope at th sky on the lookout for X-rays. dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 March 198



(Cartoon: Wolfgang Hicks/Die Welt)

■ MOTORING

Driver signalling code should be formalised, say experts

Headlights flashed by a motorist in Nuremberg on 12 July 1973 had tragic consequences. The motorist meant it as a warning; a 14-year-old girl took it to mean: "After you! Go ahead and cross the road."

She was run over and seriously injured. Three years later the Federal Supreme Court ruled she had been the victim of an inappropriate warning signal.

Motorists were confused and upset. Did this mean farewell to the system of signs and gestures they use to communicate with each other from the wheel of a car?

It was not a hard and fast system, of course, just an arrangement of convenience that motorists learnt in practice rather than as part of the highway code.

Two Bielefeld professors have now shed academic light on a part of daily life that has hitherto led a wallflower existence in the groves of Academe.

They are Klaus Mertens, a sociologist, and Eike von Savigny, a linguist and philosopher.

Professor Mertens investigated Communication Processes in Road Transport, with a view to possible improvements, on behalf of the Road Transport Research Institute, Cologne.

Professor von Savigny dealt with Non-Verbal Motorists' Language, the German for which conveniently strips down to the acronym Niveau. He did so under the aegis of the Scientific Research Association.

Their findings differ on the efficacy of the unspoken tongue of motorists and road-users.

Professor Mertens says: "There is always a risk of misunderstanding." Nearly all signs are vague in meaning, he reckons. Professor von Savigny says: "Non-verbal motorists' language is more effective than many think."

Professor Mertens and his associates watched 400 pedestrians cross the road at a set of traffic lights, noting 290 items of information per case.

Two of the 400 were nearly run over because no signs had been given or they misunderstood those that were. "Old folk often rush headlong across the street as though they were unable to do otherwise," Professor Mertens writes.

Professor von Savigny, on the other hand, feels headlight-flashing, for instance, has proved "a triumph of common sense over the law" and is both useful and reliable.

There is no end to what a flash of the headlights can be used to say, he claims, illustrating his claim with a tale of three cars.

Car A is stuck because the car in front, car B, is stationary at an intersection. He flashes his headlights at B to say: "Get a move on!"

Car B then remembers to use his indicator to explain that he wants to make a left-hand turn across the crown of the road.

Car A flashes again, as if to say: "Use your indicator earlier next time!" The driver of car B raises his hand in a gesture of apology and flashes his headlight again to emphasise the fact.

But this last flash is also aimed at car C, which is coming towards them in the other direction. C can see the indicator as well, of course, and understands the flash to mean: "Let me turn off, please!"

Car C slows down and flashes his headlight to say: "Go ahead!" B takes his left-hand turn and flashes his headlight as a gesture of thanks.

C flashes a "Don't mention it." So does A as he finally manages to drive on.

Cologne judge Eugen Menken, who deals exclusively with traffic offences, bears out Professor von Savigny's findings. He has handled about 500 insurance claims a year for the past 11 years and has yet to come across a single case in which signals of this kind have been misunderstood. "It works like a charm," he says.

Professor Mertens, who is not so sure, calls for standardisation of some key signs that should be learnt from childhood.

- OK". — "You what?"
- "Yes." — "No."
- "You drive." — "I'm about to drive."
- "Please." — "Thank you."

He has yet to decide what the precise signs should be. During daylight hours hand, arm and head gestures would suffice, but at night a flashlight might be necessary.

"Legal regulations are certainly going to prove difficult," he concedes, "since the whole idea only makes sense if it is internationally agreed."

Ingrid Baas

(Die Welt, 8 March 1980)

Accidents down by 50%

Between 1977 and 1979 special measures were undertaken to slow down traffic in 30 towns and local government areas in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The result was a 50-per-cent decline in the number of traffic accidents in which people were killed or maimed and a 40-per-cent drop in the number of minor injuries.

On average the number of accidents in parts of Cologne, Düsseldorf, Bonn and Oberhausen was down by 20 per cent, according to figures published on 11 March in Cologne by HUK, the Motor Insurers' Association.

In cooperation with the North Rhine-Westphalian Transport Ministry, which earmarked DM6m towards the cost of the "less traffic in residential areas" project, motor insurers compiled a brochure.

It outlined the basic idea, overall planning, projects and practical implementation of the experiment and was supplied to traffic planners, public interest groups and members of the public free of charge.

Konrad Pfundt, a HUK engineer, said many local authorities had keenly awaited the findings of this full-scale experiment because it was the first to show how traffic accidents could be combated and the quality of life improved in an urban environment.

Findings reveal that the accident risk is much higher in residential streets than on main roads. More than half the accidents involving children occur in fairly quiet streets.

It is not usually the children or adult pedestrians who react wrongly but the cars that go too fast, the survey reveals.

The solution must thus be to ban through traffic altogether in residential areas, or at least to force motorists to slow down by arranging parking bays so that they have to be driven round or by incorporating speed breakers or the like into the road surface.

Road signs are not felt to be very effective. Speed limits of, say, 30 km (20mph) are ignored. "No through road, residents only" signs are likewise ignored by 80 per cent of through traffic.

One-way streets that are not interrupted by zig-zags, speed breakers and chicanes of one kind or another tend to become veritable racetracks.

So the only way to forestall accidents is to change the nature of the street in such a way that the motorist is forced to keep an eye on the road immediately ahead and drive accordingly.

"In roads like these traffic may not always keep to a 30km/h limit," says Herr Pfundt, "but it does not race along at 70km/h either."

Opinion polls in North Rhine-Westphalia have shown that 82 per cent of those questioned were in favour of eliminating accident risks in cities and towns.

The desire for less traffic noise was less keen, with only 66 per cent feeling noise abatement to be a major consideration.

These are findings that will be judged important in cities such as Frankfurt where the population is steadily declining and the authorities are keen to stem the exodus.

The field trials in North Rhine-Westphalia have also shown that priority must be given to consulting the general public in redesigning the street scene.

Lothar Vetter

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 March 1980)

■ THE CINEMA

When fascination with a camera turns to obsession

Filip Mosz discovers the delights of using an 8mm film camera, and frame by frame his fascination increases.

"What are you shooting?" a friend asks outside a factory.

"Everything that moves," answers Filip played by Jerzy Stuhr in Krzysztof Kieslowski's film, *The Amateur*.

Filip, the hero of this Polish production, is initially the typical man in the street.

Together with his wife Irka, he lives in a neat new apartment, anxiously awaiting the birth of a daughter.

To have a record of her development he buys a simple 8mm camera, eventually learning to use it. Soon, he sees everything around him only through the viewfinder.

What began as a hobby eventually leads to a minor prize at an amateur film festival in the capital and to critical documentaries on labour conditions, one of which is even broadcast on television.

Frame by frame, Filip becomes enslaved by his camera. His wife leaves him, together with their daughter, his friends lose their jobs due to his critical involvement in labour and his documentaries on it.

And, finally, his "objective cinematic interpretation" of social realities leads to a conflict between himself and the factory management.

In the end, Filip shares his depleted apartment (the wife has taken most of the furniture) with the camera as his only companion.

He talks to it and, holding the lens against his face, pulls the trigger and tells it how it all began.

In Kieslowski's film it is the pictures that talk — a gratifying exception at the 30th Berlin Film Festival, the Berlinale, and its "International Forum of Young Film-makers".

The Amateur was awarded the Otto Dibelius Prize of the Protestant Film Jury.

Unlike in Kieslowski's film, in the new German movies it is still the actors who talk.

This is so in Ingemo Engström's *Letzte Liebe* (Last Love) as it is in Margarete von Trotta's *Schwestern oder Die Balance des Glücks* (Sisters or the Balance of Happiness) or in Christian Rischert's *Lena Rais* (all made in 1979 and shown in Berlin this year in the series "New German Films").

It also applies to the Swiss film-maker Beat Kuert's *Schilten* and to Recha Jungmann's *Etwas tut weh* (Something Hurts) ... a graffiti writer added to the poster: "especially this film".

Inane talk is also prominently featured in Helma Sanders-Brahms' *Deutschland bleiche Mutter* (Germany pale Mother) and in *Die Kinder von No. 67* (the children from No. 67) by Usch Barthelmess-Weller and Werner Meyer.

Usch Barthelmess-Weller is a trained kindergarten teacher and so she has no trouble getting the children to play — and that is about all that can be said for the film.

The camera has little else to latch onto but the gay fancy dress party of the children and adults in an old Berlin tenement, and even the tragedy of a jobless in the 30s develops into a militant proletarian idyll.

The whole thing is stodgy conversion of a novel into a movie, drawing what substance of reality it has from the props.

Not so Hark Bohm's *Im Herzen des Hurrican* (in the heart of the hurricane), a naughty boys' story — at least so far as his concept of reality is concerned. With the accuracy of a registrar he goes through a checklist of topical problems: depopulation of cities, longing for a piece of land, sects, alternative ways of life, police state and West Germany.

The whole thing is triggered by an elk which two Hamburg boys pursue all the way to Frankfurt. There, at an autobahn crossroads, the elk gets his coup de grace as a jet thunders overhead.

Hark Bohm's film once more shows that its maker is a big talker with total ignorance of social interplays.

It is in such a pitiful way that some of Germany's film-makers fall on both scores: providing a pictorial story of their own past (Sanders-Brahms, Barthelmess-Weller and Meyer) and interpreting the present of all of us (Bohm, Fleischmann, Engström and Trotta).

But with the ample state subsidies that have been showered on them and long spoiled by benign critics, they all nevertheless consider themselves legitimate heirs of those film-makers who, 17 years ago, declared Grandpa's movie dead, continuing to use his methods in making their films.

Since the battle cry of the first Oberhausen generation (Kluge, Reitz, Rischert, Schamoni) there have been four film-making periods or "generations" as some might call them.

Those of the second generation now number among those who have arrived and have collected international and national prizes, making money in the process. They include Schlöndorff, Syberberg, Fassbinder, Lilienthal, Hauff and Wim Wenders.

This year, it was the third generation that dominated in Berlin, among them Hans Noever with his exciting film *Der Preis fürs Überleben* (the price of survival) which provided a worthy opening for the festival.

His witty odysses *Die Nacht mit Chandler* (night with Chandler) was shown in the series "New German Films" while his *Frau gegenüber* (woman across the street) had its premiere last year.

Noever, poet, essayist and laureate of the coveted Blind War Veterans' Radio Play Prize as well as one-time lecturer at the Munich Film and Television Academy, is also a co-founder of the Authors Film Publishing House.

But his exalted ex-colleagues banished him from their ranks because — or so they said — he was no true film-maker. Now he has succeeded in showing that German film can be international, thrilling and maintain a high standard.

The crowning event at the festival was *Monarch* by the documentary film-makers Johannes Flütsch and Manfred Stelzer.

Their work shows a professional one-armed-bandit player specialised in one make of these machines, named "Mint".

With much making mock of himself and without a trace of vanity, he takes us through the inferno of German entertainment.

The two film-makers, whose documentaries have been shown on television, have demonstrated that they have the talent it takes to depict reality in a manner that lends their films an air of authenticity.

Flütsch and Stelzer asked the professional gambler in their film: "What is luxury for you ... money, automobiles?" Instead of giving an answer, The Monarch, as he is called in the film, gazes at the window of an automobile dealer as a salesman lovingly dusts one of luxury cars — directed reality?

Documentary reality blended with fiction was also what Werner Schroeter presented with his film *Palermo oder Wolfsburg* (for which he received the Golden Bear).

Like Costard and Praunheim, Schroeter belongs to the third generation. His film depicts the meagre and yet joyful, musical and sun-flooded life of a small Sicilian town.

Nicola, his silent film hero, has no choice but to come to work in Germany and he picks on Wolfsburg (the Volkswagen plant) to make some money to escape the poverty of home.

Naturally, Wolfsburg is contrasted with the small Sicilian town — and not only visually. The big VW insignia symbolises capitalism.

Understandably, Nicola, a sensitive fellow, cannot cope with this pale environment in which he finds himself. He sees the spiritual and moral decline of his fellow Italians in the automotive city and eventually falls in love with a blonde German girl.

There is no sign of a cliché as there anything that can be equated with a cliché in the ensuing trial when Nicola has to answer charges of murder. He stands accused of having killed two young Germans.

Schroeter, 35, made about two dozen other films before this prize-winner.

Palermo oder Wolfsburg was one of the most beautiful and true to life films of the festival; and notwithstanding its length (two-and-a-half hours) it was one of the most gripping and important films of the past years.

It was made mainly with lay actors and thus proves that it is not stars Germany's new cinema needs but talented directors and authors who have the courage to experiment.

Movie houses and distributors are calling for a new star-oriented cinema, but the fourth generation has already declared war on them.

They are young makers of documentaries who are completely excluded from public financing.

Michael Fischer

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 9 March 1980)

New views of towns and cities

Film-makers Larry Gottheim of the United States and Klaus Wyborny and Rüdiger Neumann from Hamburg are touring Germany this month with a varying programme.

The images this trio of experimental film-makers portray have much in common: the "familiar geography" of town and country.

That is why it is fun and entertainment to see the varying effect with which the conventional narrative film is sent toppling and replaced by something new.

Gottheim is an architect, Wyborny a composer who calls himself an engineer and Neumann a surveyor, and their new structures are so quick to take on a poetic meaning that it would be much too straitlaced to talk merely in terms of structural cinema.

Wyborny calls his films *Eine kleine Augenmusik*, or music for the eyes. They have to be seen to see how they work.

Gottheim in Four Shadows has 16 speakers recite 11 lines from Wordsworth's *Prelude*.

These verses, 180 years old, are read by a cast including Heinz Emigholz, Jonas Mekas, Peter Kubelka, Taka Imura, Minuca Villaverde, Alfons Schilling, Akiko Imura and Klaus Wyborny.

Another soundtrack is taken from Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande, and four four-minute soundtracks are combined with four four-minute film sequences.

We see surveyors at work, pages from a book on Cézanne, a city under snow, apes (Siamang gibbons from the National Zoo in Washington D.C.) and a total 64 minutes of film.

The majestic architecture of Four Shadows is awe-inspiring and impressive yet inviting and understandable.

A fine understanding and ability to see as readily as one hears are needed to appreciate Wyborny's films, of which Birth of the Nation and Pictures of the Lost Word form part of the tour programme.

The image structures of his films simulate Beethoven, Alban Berg and Schönberg scores.

They are silent images, and when they are not abstract, showing instead the view seen by a motorist or passer-by, they reproduce what Wyborny saw during shooting.

"Now I am working as a lorry-driver I like to think, I like to think of the film as a long conveyor-belt at which the film-maker sits working.

"Every single image that crosses the path of his existence is filled with information, just like women in factories do who assemble transistor radios to a prearranged schedule.

"Maybe the film-maker is even the engineer who plans this schedule but to be honest, I don't really think so," Wyborny explains, in English, in the soundtrack to Pictures of the Lost Word.

Tension between spot pictorial information and quasi-musical large-scale structure increasingly liberates spot the decision to get on and drive. Rüdiger Neumann specialises in tension between text and documentary film material.

In What is Charm? he takes to task a poem by Marcia Bronstein. Text and picture are stripped naked in the rhythmic structure.

It is a hovering moment filled with meaning in which the premonitory vague is given expression. The poem, let us say, finds its place in the film.

Neumann has clearly transcended survey work in Coincidental Topography and Coincidence City, in which town and country were restored to order.

Dietrich Kuhlbrodt

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 March 1980)

■ OBITUARIES

Kokoschka saw all the aesthetic revolution

Oskar Kokoschka was one of the last grand old men of painting to have personally experienced the 20th-century aesthetic revolution from the outset.

Long a living monument, OK as he self-confidently initialled his paintings and was known by his friends, died at Villeneuve on Lake Geneva.

For at least the last 10 years of his life, after the publication of his autobiography, Kokoschka the erstwhile revolutionary could no longer be called as a witness for the prosecution.

His testimony was no longer satisfactory as evidence of the emancipation of the arts from the burdens imposed by academic tradition.

Against the background of a stylistic confusion worthy of the Tower of Babel he had made no bones about his views, temperamentally sniping at conventional art history like the fearless single combat specialist that he was.

He was so annoyed with dehumanised, "abstract" art that he had little patience with any developments since the Baroque, for which he had nothing but praise.

"Pauperisation of the power to give shape to human existence," he wrote, "was already apparent in classical historicism, in the sentimental romantic desire of the French Revolution for a past.

"Historicism was followed, in impressionism, by an attempt to analyse scientifically the ability to see. Nowadays, progress has arrived at the formlessness of so-called non-object art."

Who is to blame for "the human desire to give shape to things threatening to cone to an end"? In retrospect Kokoschka blamed the intellectualisation of the avant-garde, currently culminating in concept art.

"Theoretical principle and logic," he complained, "have had increasingly little to do with the visual experience of existence."

What is art? "The essence of art has always been to act as an intermediary in conveying human experience."

This is a commodity of which there was never any shortage in Kokoschka's eventful artist's life, begun as a controversial and argumentative traditionalist in Imperial Vienna.

Soon after starting out to shock established opinion he settled down to paint portraits of his contemporaries, some already famous, others eccentric and holding forth promise of fame to come.

Adolf Loos, his patron and untiring source of encouragement, was first to notice Kokoschka's X-ray eye, and the artist went in for portraits partly out of preference, partly to earn a living.

The people whose portraits he painted make up an entire pantheon of early 20th-century intellectual heroes.

In Vienna his subjects included Karl Kraus, Albert Ehrenstein, Georg Trakl and Arnold Schönberg, in Berlin Herwarth Walden, Else Lasker-Schüler, Paul Cassirer and Tilla Durieux.

On his return from emigration in England he went on to paint portraits of Wilhelm Furtwängler, Ezra Pound, Theodor Heuss and Konrad Adenauer.

He took his work seriously, spending days and even weeks torturing himself and his victims, as he called them, until he finally discovered the "tin-opener" to what, at times, were decidedly close and secretive personalities.

This gave him ample opportunity to get to know his subjects well, and with some he remained on terms of close friendship.

He sorely regretted the passing of the good old days when the Austro-Hungarian family of nations was still intact and half the world could be covered without irksome requirements such as a passport.

But he did more than spend his time talking politics with Adenauer or engaging in the academic delights of a discussion of the late Titian with other clients.

At the end of the war he was penniless and spent so long at the Lake Geneva home of a millionaire businessman whose portrait he was painting that he was able to sell a few more paintings and leave with cash in hand.

He also wrote, and writing for him was much more than an interval of intellectual relaxation along the lines of "a change is as good as a rest."

That was why he always felt attracted to poets and musicians, whereas he always steered well clear of other painters.

A dynamic wizard with colours, he willingly owned up to being an expressionist and was moved by the inner expression not the outward image, but even in his tempestuous Berlin days, associated with Herwarth Walden, he shunned contact with the Brücke group.

In Paris to he never set foot in famous artists' rendezvous such as the Café du Dôme. "I never liked that market place where fashionable artists waited for their American clients," he wrote.

But the true reason for Kokoschka's solidary habits probably lay deeper. He was afraid he might be confused by alien influences as he progressed. He did strike up an acquaintanceship with George Grosz, but it was hardly a happy one. Kokoschka was a professor at the Dresden Academy in the interwar years and paid more attention to his custodianship of the city's art galleries than to the political struggles of the Weimar Republic. Grosz called him the art whore Oskar Kokoschka and threatened to hang him on the nearest lamp-post as soon as his party came to power. Kokoschka both had little truck with other artists and was reluctant to disclose the major influence on his own art, apart from Tintoretto and the late Titian.



Oskar Kokoschka (Photo: dpa)

He once explained how he had hit on the idea, in Venice, of painting the view from two different windows so as to achieve, from the typical breadth of this panoramic view, the multidimensionality of his Baroque art.

But otherwise he kept interpreters on a short rein: "Source research is like the wind that blows dead leaves across your path."

The winds of his own restless nature did not allow him to settle down until old age. His life was marked by an inability to settle down in a Europe characterised by continual, forcible change.

He served as an Austro-Hungarian dragoon guard on the Eastern front and was bayoneted by a Russian soldier. On his recovery he embarked on the unsettled existence of a traveller without luggage.

He painted in hotel rooms and posted his urban landscapes before the paint was dry on the canvas. In the 30s, when Kokoschka was managed by Paul Cassirer, he was contemptuously dismissed as the "Mitropa painter," implying that he did his painting in railway sleeping cars.

What he really sought to do was to rescue the world's beauty from collective suicide.

Take Prague, for instance. "I painted Prague not with the intention of providing topographical guides or immortalising momentary impressions in the impressionist style.

"I did so because cities nowadays are made of sand and their dwellers neither care for the past nor are aware of a future; indeed, they are afraid of it even."

Wolf Schön

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 29 February 1980)

Chekhova, the self styled ugly duckling

Actress Olga Chekhova has died. She was 83.

Born in Alexandropole in 1897, the daughter of a civil engineer, she was a direct descendent of Anton Chekhov.

At 16, she married her cousin, Michael Chekhov, but divorced him three years later, shortly after the birth of her daughter, Ada.

She first studied sculpture in St. Petersburg, and later enrolled at the Moscow acting school where she became the favourite pupil of Konstantin Stanislavsky.

In 1921, Olga Chekhova emigrated to Germany where F. W. Murnau discovered her and gave her a role in his film *Schloss Vogelöd* (Vogelöd Castle).

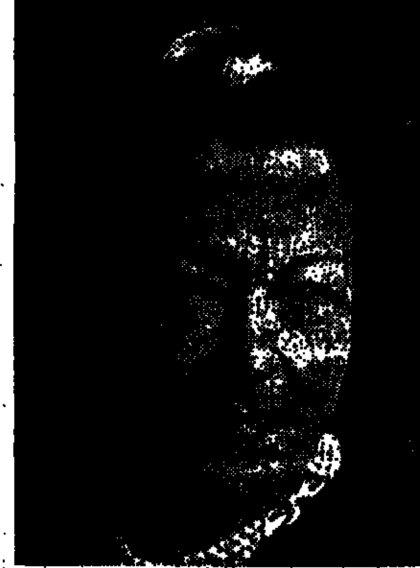
One of her great successes in those years was the title role in Ibsen's *Nora*.

She played in about 200 movies, among them *Die drei von der Tankstelle* (The Filling Station Three), *Liebling der Götter* (Darling of the Gods), *Peer Gynt*, *Befreite Hände (Liberated Hands) with Brigitte Horney and, last but not least, Willi Forst's Bel Ami*.

After World War II, she also played in various Berlin theatres.

Said she about herself: "I was an ugly duckling."

In the 50se, she withdrew entirely from film work and founded a cosmetics company with branches in Europe and the United States.



Olga Chekhova (Photo: dpa)

In 1962, she was awarded the Golden Film Strip for her successful life's work.

Four years later, Chekhova's daughter, Ada, was killed in an air disaster.

Her granddaughter, Vera, also an actress, is married to the actor Vadim Glowna.

Although Olga Chekhova was awarded the title of "state actress" in 1938, she managed to absent herself from most of the "soul destroying" (as she called it) functions of the Nazi regime.

Rumours after the War that she had spied for the Russians later proved unfounded.

Olga Chekhova always devoted all she had to her acting work.

In 1973, she wrote in her autobiography: *My clocks run Differently* — an enigmatic statement which puzzled the critics. As one of them put it: "She remains an important woman, despite her memoirs."

Even her three marriages, all of them divorced, had little effect on her life. She lived in Bavaria together with Ada (until the latter's death) and her granddaughter Vera, and she bristled with new ideas to the end.

Having given up her career as an actress, she began to study medicine because she wanted to open a sanatorium. But she abandoned this and took charge of a studio for young movie actors. She also translated Tolstoy and wrote two books on cosmetics and fashion.

But in her later years she was truly successful only as the head of her cosmetics company for which her lovely face was the best advertisement. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 March 1980)

■ MEDICINE

Shying away from the only certain thing in life – death

"Run-of-the-mill doctors give no thought to death and how their patients might best face it. Better doctors think about it and are troubled by the problems its poses. There was a time when Christian families prayed daily for an easy death. Everyone knew from childhood that death was inevitable. But this awareness has been done away with systematically by making the subject taboo. So the work of doctors has become more difficult. Even medical congresses and journals avoid the mention of it where possible." — Berlin doctor speaking at the Symposium of the German Society for Gerontology.

Society's tendency to suppress thoughts of death have made the act of dying increasingly inhuman and lonely.

The dying are left for the hospital to deal with. Doctors and nurses are expected to do what the next-of-kin should do: comfort the patient.

Death is seldom voluntarily considered, either for one's self or as an inevitable fate.

That is absurd, because it is the one thing we can all be certain of.

It is not surprising that hospitals are often not up to the task of providing the best possible surroundings for death to come.

Hospitals have a certain number of beds which must be operated economically. The available labour has to be divided among them.

Growing specialisation and an institutionalised eight-hour day mean that a patient will be looked after by three different nurses or doctors within any 24-hour period.

All this is unlikely to change because we cannot revert to the small 100-bed hospital and to patients being looked after by nuns working virtually round the clock — conditions which the older participants in the Berlin symposium remembered with nostalgia.

The key words today are rationalisation and cost-cutting. This has had an adverse effect on humanity in our hospitals.

To provide more humanity we need more staff and, above all, highly qualified staff.

What can be done to improve matters?

Several proposals were put forward at the symposium:

If there are no nursing applicants for certain hospital wards because work in them is considered too hard — and this inevitably applies to geriatric wards — it is up to us to provide incentives both in the form of better training to enable nurses to cope and in the form of better pay. In any event, it is scandalous that a country like the Federal Republic of Germany which considers itself a social state should economise at the expense of the old and sick.

Doctors, too, must rethink and be prepared to work as a team. It would be desirable if such a team (consisting of nurses, doctors and even chars) were to meet at least once a week to exchange information about the patient and determine the future approach.

In medically hopeless cases, the patient should be permitted to die in peace and his last says should be made as pleasant as possible. He should not be kept alive at any cost. A dignified death should be considered a success by doctors and nurses.

When medical treatment has to be reduced in hopeless cases, social care for the patient must be stepped up. The dying need more attention and hence more staff.

The transfer of the severely ill and dying to other wards imposes a severe burden on them and must be avoided.

The various professions dealing with the dying know too little about each other's work. Cooperation between doctors, clergymen, psychologists, sociologists and nursing staff must be stepped up.

These demands were prompted by the English St. Christopher's Hospice which many in Germany would call a "death clinic". But in Britain the place is a special care unit which accepts patients who are diagnosed as hopeless.

The whole thing sounds like "a place for the dying" and this has led to rejection of the idea by many German doctors and medical authorities.

But a film shown at the symposium and buttressed by eyewitness reports made the delegates think.

Obviously, the patients receive special care in which relatives and lay helpers play an important part. Everybody has time for the patient and his wishes.

One woman, a terminal cancer patient who had had to spend months at home alone, said that she had never in her life



been so at peace as in the hospice. There she had become so relaxed that she no longer feared death.

How many incurables can say the same of a German hospital?

The delegates to the symposium decided to recommend the establishment of a similar pilot institution in this country. Some felt, however, that it would be better to simply introduce special wards along these lines at existing hospitals.

With it all, death in hospital should always be viewed as an emergency situation. The desirable thing is still a death at home, surrounded by the family.

It might make it easier for some of the dying person's family to contemplate their own death if they see their next-of-kin dying in the comfort of the family fold.

Helga Uhlen

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 March 1980)

Regulations on noise levels 'not adequate'

The German Society for Housing Medicine (DGW) has declared war on noise. It says the existing noise abatement regulations are inadequate.

To remedy the situation, the DGW has now issued "Medical Guidelines for the Assessment of Noise".

DGW president Friedrich von Halle-Tischendorf warns against the "apparent accuracy" of measuring noise by physical means because this does not take into account the manner in which noise is felt by individuals.

The DGW guidelines want to put an end to the "fascination with the use of technical tolerance levels" as a yardstick for the assessment of what is actually tolerable.

Noise must not only be taken seriously when a there is a public outcry.

The problem of average noise levels used as a criterion of tolerance is borne out by the term "sustained noise levels".

Thus, for instance, a sustained noise level of 65 decibels per hour occurs when a train rumbles through a quiet area once every 60 minutes, the noise lasting only two minutes.

But 2,000 automobiles driving at city speed create the same sustained noise level of 65 decibels, though the train causes no disturbance for most of the time while the automobile noise is continuous.

As a result, the DGW doctors reject such tolerance levels. They also oppose the distinction between medically discernible harmful effects on health and medically explainable curtailment of wellbeing as a result of noise.

Particularly in need of protection the DGW says, are working people subject to considerable stress, i.e. people doing mental work, apprentices, shift workers, convalescents and the elderly.

The Society also calls for special noiseless breaks in particularly noise intensive factories to prevent damage to hearing.

Voluntary exposure to noise as in discotheques is equated to drug addiction.

rtr

(Die Welt, 7 March 1980)

Group aims at 'humanising hospitals'

A new work group to promote more humanity in hospitals and doctors' surgeries has been founded in North Rhine-Westphalia.

It intends to operate nation-wide.

The group's founder Friedrich-Wilhelm Koch, who is also the president of one of Germany's medical associations: "It is paradoxical to have to have to demand more humanity for an institution whose purpose it is to serve mankind."

Dr Koch a couple of years ago called our hospitals "repair shops for people."

One example of thoughtlessness if not inhumanity was presented at the founding meeting by MP Schmidt-Kempten (FDP).

He told the meeting that he had recently visited a hospital with a lovely roofgarden on the 12th floor. When he asked whether the patients were permitted to enjoy the roofgarden and the view it provided he was told that this was impossible for lack of staff to take the patients up and bring them back again.

Evidently it occurred to nobody that a great many patients are quite capable of pressing an elevator button by themselves.

For Dr Koch humanity begins with simple and useful bits of advice for a hospital stay.

His group, which includes not only doctors but also nurses, psychologists, clergymen and social workers, has therefore written an advice booklet for patients which covers everything from what to pack all the way to what has to be taken care of at home before going to hospital.

This includes such commonsense things as turning off the gas, leaving a forwarding address and, of course, making arrangements for the care of pets and plants.

The group, which includes Dr Veronika Carstens, wife of President Carstens, also wants to make the everyday routine in hospital more similar to home routines. The patients are not to be wakened before 6.30 a.m. and dinner is not to be served before 6 p.m. Visiting hours are to be extended.

But the advice booklet provides not only practical advice. It also tries to instil courage in the patient, telling him: "If there is something you want to know or something you don't understand, ask. It is part of the job of all hospital staff to answer questions."

One of the most important problems in our technologically sophisticated hospitals is lack of contact with the doctor.

Studies show what that the patient is left alone and that his personal needs receive little attention.

According to recent polls, only 8 per cent of the interviewed women and ... per cent of men said that they had personal contact with the doctor. The others called contacts superficial (54 per cent of women, 40 per cent of men) or impersonal (30 per cent women, 43 ... men).

Doctors indirectly confirm these feelings. They say that in only 10 per cent of cases did they know anything about the effects of personal circumstances on the ailment. The same goes for the nursing staff.

The manner in which patients are characterised is indicative. Nurses speak of them as "a nice chap", "a quiet sort of fellow", "a difficult patient" or "a fellow they didn't want at home anyway". Others are referred to as "fresh" or "bad egg".

Bonn theologian Böckle said at the founding meeting that all hospital staff must be made aware that physical ailments are always accompanies by psychological upset.

It is this part of medical work in particular, he said, that is being overlooked in the euphoria of technological progress.

But gradually doctors are beginning to feel ill at ease with all the technology surrounding them and its effects on the patient.

The newly founded work group therefore wants to promote the ability of doctors to become personally involved with their patients.

Michael Bra...

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 March ...)

■ CHILDREN

Pressures of school take their toll, especially in the cities

Zappelphilipp, a schoolboy who was so full of beans he just would not sit still, is a proverbial character from *Der Struwwelpeter*, an illustrated children's book that has delighted generations of Germans and been translated into dozens of other languages.

He is probably the first case study of hyperkinesia, a restlessness widespread among children, just as Heinrich Hoffmann, the author of *Der Struwwelpeter*, may well have been the first child psychiatrist.

Born in 1809, Dr Hoffmann was a paediatrician and director of Frankfurt municipal neurological clinic until his death in September 1894.

In one way or another all the characters in the book are psychiatrically disturbed or at least can be said to be eccentric in their behaviour.

In recent years — Dr Hoffmann's book first appeared in 1847 — psychiatric disorders have been increasingly observed among children.

This is doubtless partly because ways and means of spotting them have improved and because doctors and psychologists have devoted more attention to the phenomenon.

More especially, however, the situation children face has undergone fundamental changes. It has, perhaps it would be better to say, been exacerbated.

They are bombarded with stimuli of all kinds yet too little attention is paid to their needs as children, even at home, while the pressure on children and juveniles at school has skyrocketed.

Mannheim children's psychiatrist Martin H. Schmidt attributes pressure at school largely to the educational boom of the 60s. He would prefer to have seen *Hauptschule* upgraded rather than inordinate importance attached to university entrance qualifications.

Gerhard Niebergall, a Berlin paediatrician and psychologist, says he and his colleagues can well understand why children suffer from bouts of resignation in view of their limited future prospects.

Psychiatric Disorders and School was nonetheless the subject of this year's further education conference of the Berlin Psychiatric and Neurological Association.

Helmut Remschmidt, who chaired the conference, explained that care had been taken to avoid implying that psychiatric disorders were necessarily caused by school.

As a rule a number of circumstances combine to cause psychiatric disorders and disturbed behaviour such as is likely to jeopardise a child's scholastic development.

Claims as to their frequency vary widely, however. Professor Remschmidt, for instance, reckons that about 20 per cent of schoolchildren suffer from disturbed behaviour, the figure for city kids being twice as high as in rural areas.

In Cologne a psychiatric commission of inquiry found 31 per cent of a year's intake of first-year schoolchildren to be suffering from behavioural disturbances and performance impediments.

During their first year at school 16.3 per cent were found to stand out by virtue of their disorders, 6 per cent were sent home and told to wait another year before starting school and 8.7 per cent were earmarked for special schools.

Among juveniles between 13 and 17 per cent suffer from behavioural disorders, such as lack of concentration, restlessness, minor functional disturbances of the brain, dyslexia, depression and various forms of refusal to accept school.

Three forms of this phenomenon, school *angst*, school phobia and truancy, were discussed in detail at the conference.

School phobia is not a genuine phobia; victims do not suffer from exaggerated fear of school. What they are afraid of is separation from their mother (the problem is usually a symbiotic relationship with mum, at any rate).

Some children are encouraged by their parents not to let hold of the apron strings. Some have not set foot inside a school for years.

Children suffering from school phobia often develop a number of physical, "cover-up" symptom.

Treatment must accordingly be aimed at loosening the inordinately close ties between child and adult to whom it relates. It must, in other words, involve family therapy.

When parents come voluntarily with their children, treatment is more than likely to succeed. On no account must the child be excused school to facilitate treatment, a main feature of which must be gentle coercion, as it were, to encourage the child to attend school.

Treatment is successful in six or seven out of ten cases where it is brought to a conclusion, the ratio being lower in cases where the phobia is long-established.

Professor Remschmidt expressed surprise that figures could be kept in a city like Berlin (and frequently were).

Treatment often consists of sending the child to hospital, thereby engineering a separation from the parent figure, and using behavioural therapy techniques at times accompanied by medication, since school phobia often entails depression.

School *angst* is used to denote actual fear of failure, fear of inordinate demands, fear of humiliation at school. Occasionally, but only occasionally, are genuine (but minor) shortcomings to blame.

In cases such as these cooperation with the school is the best course. Often the solution is to persuade the teacher to change his or her behaviour, especially as staff will probably be unaware of the cause of anxiety.

Truancy, on the other hand, is an instance of what children's psychologists call dissocial behaviour, and frequently accompanied by criminal offences of one kind or another.

It is often practised by neglected children who have failed to learn certain social norms, and methods of treatment are correspondingly less likely to prove successful.

Besides, the therapist can seldom count on parental cooperation. As a rule the only option is to send the truant to a strictly run children's home.

The psychiatric repertoire was by no means universally satisfactory where

Continued on page 16

Mixed bag for breakfast and often nothing at all

More than one West German schoolchild in 10 sets off for school in the morning on an empty stomach, claim a group of educationalists and nutritionists in West Berlin.

A sample 3,357 Berlin schoolchildren were interviewed in January. The findings were compared with those from similar surveys in West Germany.

In West Berlin 14 per cent of schoolchildren had no breakfast; in the Federal Republic the figure was 11 per cent.

Another difference was that most Berlin schoolchildren seem to prefer something sweet on their roll or sandwich, whereas children in West Germany are equally divided in their preference for something sweet or something more nourishing.

Berlin children have better drinking habits, though. They are less keen on coffee than their counterparts in West Germany, preferring milk and cocoa.

And although one Berlin schoolchild in seven eats no breakfast before going to school, only one in 10 goes without a snack to eat during the morning break, whereas in West Germany 12 per cent do not take a snack with them.

Nutritionists were delighted to find that lunch packs contained six sausage or cheese sandwiches for every jam sandwich. A majority of the Berlin sample also had an apple or some other fruit to eat during break.

Roughly from puberty on, findings in both Berlin and West Germany indicate, schoolchildren tend to prefer Coke or lemonade to drink.

Since sound nutrition is a prerequisite of healthy development parents, brothers and sisters, friends and media advertising could well set a good example.

A 1976 report by the German Nutrition Association reckoned children's diets were by no means balanced when it came to important minerals and vitamins crucial to a child's development.

So parents ought not to take the easy way out and give their children the money instead. Sandwiches for break are still best, combined with milk, yoghurt or fruit.

A change of bread (there are 200 varieties to choose from in Germany) is recommended, as is a change of what is put on it. Otherwise the snack will become a boring regularity.

Recommended changes to be rung include the occasional slice of lettuce or slices of apple, tomato or cucumber.

Doctors and nutritionists agree that a child's school snack is a convenient point at which to teach good eating habits and so help to forestall dietary complaints that currently cost the country DM17bn a year.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 8 March 1980)

■ SEX EQUALITY

Businessman gives MPs' committee a shock

Members of a Bundestag committee hearing into employment discrimination against women were startled when a businessman told them that women "have no leadership qualities".

The businessman, giving evidence to the Labour and Social Affairs Committee, said that there was no discrimination against women in his company, and there was no need for legislation to ensure the equality of the sexes at work.

But he then described his criteria of selection when a man and a woman apply for the same job: "If it's a foreman's job that's going it will obviously be given to the man because everybody knows that women are talkative and have no leadership qualities, which disqualifies them from such a position."

The MPs were speechless at this statement showing how the equal treatment of the sexes as stipulated in the Constitution is flouted.

Somewhat embarrassed, the Employers' Association tried to paper over this example of daily practice by resorting to legal nitpicking and quoting that article of the Constitution which stipulates "freedom of contract."

Neither the state nor the European Community, the Association spokesman said, have the right to tell a German employer whom to hire and on what terms.

MP Helga Schuchardt, FDP, replied cynically: *"If freedom of contract is a more valuable basic right for the business community than the anti-discrimination article of the Constitution,* I am only waiting for somebody to demand the abolishment of the Child Labour Act. After all, by prohibiting child labour the state interferes with the freedom of contract."

Now it was the Association representative who was speechless and at a loss for an answer. He also had little to say to the remark by the Hamburg legal expert on labour affairs, Heide Pfarr, who cited the British Anti-Discrimination Act.

When the bill had bogged down in the Parliamentary debate, someone suggested that the word "women" be replaced by the word "Jews". This quickly put an end to the debate and got the bill enacted. But the political parties in Bonn, both in the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, still have a long way to go.

Yet time is of the essence. The SPD-FDP coalition government which tirelessly praises the "model Germany" is two years behind schedule in implementing an EEC resolution.

In March 1979, EEC Commissioner Henk Vredeling publicly censured Bonn's tardiness and announced that he would institute proceedings against Bonn.

Meanwhile, the Federal Republic of Germany has been given until 30 June to implement the relevant resolution of the EEC Council of Ministers. Should it fail to do so, any German woman can sue the Bonn Government at the European Court in Luxembourg.

Five years ago, Brussels ruled that all labour law barriers for women must be removed within the Community.

The guidelines were signed by the member nations, who undertook to introduce national legislation that would provide equal opportunity, equal pay and equal conditions on the labour market. Germany is the only country which has not yet implemented the resolution.

All other EEC countries now have equal-pay legislation while Bonn is trying to get out of it by pointing to the Constitution and the autonomy of the parties to collective bargaining.

As a result, the average wage difference between men and women still amounts to 30 per cent in this country — and only half of this is attributable to differences in qualification and working hours for women.

There is no change in sight and women still stand little chance with the union bodies that set wage targets for collective bargaining. This is essentially due to the fact that women are hopelessly in the minority in the labour world.

The hard core of German trade unions, skilled workers, still finds it difficult to put forward pay demands for minorities in their own ranks.

But since the public censure by Brussels and the SPD's pro-labour campaign for the European election last year, discomfiture at this foot-dragging has been growing in Bonn.

Even so Bonn has never contemplated an anti-discrimination act as extensive as similar legislation in Britain, America and the Scandinavian countries.

It has also never contemplated a relevant government authority that would exercise control and have political clout, although women's organisations have been pressing for it.

The conservatives, who have a clear majority in the Bundesrat, have sided with the employers from the very beginning, rejecting any intrusion on the freedom of contract and any control authority.

This has been a major obstacle because it has meant that the bill can contain nothing that would require Bundesrat approval.

The draft finally worked out by the cabinet after a considerable tug-of-war and intervention by Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff would comply with two of the EEC guidelines.

It would, however, not exert legal pressure on the employers and forgo sanctions and controls.

Thus the employers would still be at liberty to favour men.

Only if a woman can convince a court that she has been discriminated against on the grounds of her sex can the employer be forced to give objective reasons for such treatment.

MPs like Helga Schuchardt and senior women officials of Antje Huber's (SPD) Family Affairs Ministry originally held that this term ("objective reasons") meant that Lufthansa and the Berlin Philharmonic could no longer refuse to employ women in certain positions.

But since the latest hearing Frau Schuchardt is no longer certain that the government attitude ("rather such a law than none") is still tenable.

The employers presented such a pitiful picture, Frau Schuchardt said, that they could easily drive one into Women's Lib.

Deputy Bundestag Speaker Annemarie Renger, SPD, is also not happy with the new bill. She recently publicly censured the fact that the onus to prove that they have been discriminated against should rest with the women. Instead, she demanded that the employer have the onus of proving non-discrimination.

In fact, this is how an early draft of the bill presented by the Labour Ministry read before Count Lambsdorff, who favours medium-sized business, turned the whole thing around.

Even some women's rights experts in the SPD, among them Bundestag members Nils Diederich and Jürgen Egert, are no longer certain that they can dare confront the EEC Commission and women's organisations with the new bill.

They are now even more sceptical due to the reservations and amendment demands put forward at the SPD's recent Legal Affairs Congress and voiced by an International Conference of Experts at the Berlin Aspen Institute.

Swedish, British, French and American delegates had a hard time understanding the convoluted text of the German bill and comparing it with their own legislation.

When they realised that the draft had been deliberately formulated in this way so that no change would ensue there was shocked silence.

The liberal Swedish MP and chairperson of the Swedish Equal Rights Committee, Karen Ahrland, was struck with disbelief. The same went for her American counterpart, Daniel Leach.

The British delegate, Dipak Nandy (of the Manchester Commission for Equal Opportunity), wrapped a couple of hard truths in diplomatic language, saying: "Well, if I understand the text correctly, I am rather doubtful that it is compatible with the EEC resolution."

Jutta Roitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 March 1980)



Helga Imm (Photo:

Walter Röhrl (Photo: dpa)

Mothers' group puts on the pressure

A newly formed organisation cre[...] as a mothers' pressure group h[...] presented Germany's politicians with [...] package of demands worth more th[...] DM80bn.

The chairman of Motherhood as [...] Profession, Helga Imm, says mothe[rs] should be paid on the basis of a 67-ho[ur] working week and should get from th[e] State DM376 per child per month.

This would cost the State DM36bn [a] year.

On top of this DM9bn a year shoul[d] be spent on pensions and DM38bn on various child subsidies.

Frau Imma, a mother of four, has [noth]ing to say in favour of the way the p[o]litical parties tackle the problems of mothers and children.

She is not surprised, says Frau Imm, with reference to the SPD. "After all, Karl Marx never had any children."

"The constant soft-pedalling is useless! We'll do exactly what the unions, [...] the farmers or the civil servants associations do. They are not embarrassed to demand billions, so why should we be?"

Her association which, notwithstanding its newness, already has some 6,000 members, wants to enable women to de[...]vote themselves entirely to motherhood without financial worries.

To prevent politicians from rejecting the DM80bn package, her association has resorted to a classical means of exerting political pressure.

"We're calling on all mothers to vote CDU/CSU this time," says Frau Imm.

But Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss should beware of premature rejoicing. Such a vote would have nothing to do with conviction but would refle[ct] the bitter disappointment with 11 years of social-liberal coalition government and the pitiful failure of the SPD, says Frau Imm.

"The SPD can evidently not rid itself of the illusion that a woman must b[e] emancipated and live like a man and that children are only in the way and must almost be regarded as a shame. It['s] high time for the SPD to put a stop [to] its Women's Libbers, she says.

Frau Imm feels that a few years [in] the opposition would give the SPD [a] chance to rethink and the conservati[ves] a chance.

On the other hand, if the conserva[tives] fail to go along with the mothe[rs'] wishes, she'll turn the tables in 1984 [...] "Then we'll call on mothers to v[ote] SPD."

Peter Schmalz

(Die Welt, 12 March 19[80])

SPORT

Motor-racing team go on to third win

Walter Röhrl from Regensburg and Christian Geistdörfer from Mu[n]ich are currently West Germany's [f]oremost racing motorists.

After winning the Monte Carlo rally they have gone on to win the Portugal rally, rated much higher by many man[u]facturers.

It was the third of 13 world cham[pionship] rallies and took Röhrl into the [l]ead with 36 points for Fiat, followed by [F]ord, 20, and Lancia and Talbot, 16 [e]ach.

Fiats came first and second in Portu[g]al, the runner-up being Röhrl's Finnish [t]eam-mate Markku Alen, a three-time [p]ast winner.

Guy Frequelin of France came third [i]n a Talbot, the manufacturers who now employ Jochen Neerpasch, the former BMW team manager.

Walter Röhrl was in sparkling form on the rough roads of Northern Portugal just as he had been six weeks earlier in the ice and snow of the Alpes Maritimes.

Alen finished 14 minutes, Frequelin more than half an hour later at the end of 47 special tests lasting three days and three nights.

Defending champion Björn Waldegaard was nearly three quarters of an hour behind in fourth place, and Ingvar Carlsson nearly 55 minutes behind in the No. 5 slot.

Ove Andersson of Sweden in a Toyota, a Portugal specialist, came sixth in a time 1 hour 9 minutes slower than the winner.

Mercedes were nonetheless satisfied with the performance of Waldegaard and Carlsson. After 17 years out of the running the German marque could pride itself on having made a successful comeback in European rally racing.

Daimler-Benz were the only one of the nine works teams not to be troubled by failures and difficulties of one kind or another.

The 1.3-tonne Mercedes 450 SLC 5.0s made do with stopping for fuel and fresh brake linings. "It would have been unrealistic to expect a win in Portugal," siad team manager Erich Waxenberger. "For conditions there our cars are too large."

"The car is outstanding," said Björn Waldegaard. "It is reliable and comfortable to drive, but no-one can beat Röhrl in his present form. He is well on the way to becoming a superstar. The differences in time are unbelievable."

Röhrl himself has simple arguments to account for his success. "I don't punish the car. I just drive it. Clean lines are crucial, even though they may seem slower and less spectacular."

He certainly proved his point in the finale, making light of the last nine sprint trials before a crowd of 300,000.

Other fancied drivers lacked his self-discipline. Ford Escort drivers Hannu Mikkola and Ari Vatanen of Finland, for instance, pulled off a spectacular finish.

They were both behind because of engine trouble and wrote their cars off on the very same bend on the Friday night. First Mikkola went down the hill, then Vatanen. They turned turtle side by side but both emerged unscathed.

Opel were out of the running in the first night when Anders Kulläng of Sweden crashed without injury and European champion Joachim Kleint from Hamburg, initially third, burst a front tyre and left the track.

Bernard Darniche of France, leading the field in a Lancia Stratos, had already retired with engine trouble. Only 26 of the 110 teams that started on 5 March went on to finish the rally.

sid

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 March 1980)



Hans Stuck (Photo: Werek)

Stuck back with new opportunity

Hans Stuck from Munich looks like he is back in Formula 1 grand prix motor racing. He will be driving for McLaren in the West United States grand prix on 30 March.

Stuck will be taking over from Alain Prost of France, who suffered a hand injury at Kyalami, South Africa.

Terms were agreed on the telephone with McLaren's Teddy Mayer in the night of 5 March. "The agreement is for as long as Prost is unfit to drive," Stuck said.

The odds are that this will mean Stuck will enter for the Belgian grand prix on 4 May and the Monaco grand prix on 18 May.

He and Mayer made contact via an intermediary on 1 March, when Mayer was still in South Africa.

"I had until Wednesday evening to make up my mind and tell Teddy Mayer my terms," Stuck explained. He was at the Geneva car show at the time.

His team-mate will be John Watson of Northern Ireland. They both drove for Brabham in 1977, managed by Bernie Ecclestone of Britain.

That year was Stuck's best, with two third places at Hockenheim and Zeltweg. In 1978 he drove a Shadow, in 1979 a German ATS, but neither season proved as successful as 1977.

He preferred not to renew his ATS contract, for financial reasons and was replaced in the Bad Türkheim stable by Marc Surer of Switzerland and Jan Lammers of Holland.

Stuck is well aware that McLaren, for whom Jochen Mass from Cologne drove between 197: and 1977, is no longer rated one of the top-class cars.

"But after all," he says, "it is an opportunity to get my foot back on the door."

Watson, whose second season with McLaren it is, did not fare better than 11th in Brazil and South Africa. In Argentina he was out of the running.

Prost, in his first Formula 1 races, came sixth in Argentina and fifth in Brazil, whereupon Mayer showed greater interest in the French driver.

Stuck, a veteran of 74 world championship grand prix races since 1974, will be trying out the McLaren at Brand's Hatch and Silverstone.

Since about 30cm (1ft) difference in height separates him from Prost, the cockpit will need re-equipping.

This new development puts paid to Stuck's previous plans, which included entering for the 300km Nürburgring race on 30 March. He was to have driven a two-litre Schnitzer BMW in the second race of the German season.

"This clash of deadlines is no problem," Stuck explained. "I have a contract with BMW which automatically releases me for Formula 1 duties."

Prost's doctors indirectly confirm that he will be out of the running for a likely three months. His fractured hand is one of the most complicated injuries in Formula 1 racing. It will have to be nursed back to health very slowly.

Yet Stuck will still start his season in a BMW, at Zolder, Belgium, in the first race of the German season. Then he will be flying straight to America.

Michael Oberdieck/sid

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 March 1980)

Cross-country runner fights the odds

When Hans-Jürgen Orthmann, nicknamed "The Tendon," over[t]ook Nick Rose of Britain 200m before [t]he finish of the world cross-country title [ra]ce at Longchamp, Paris, he took the [ti]me to quickly blow his nose.

It was an unconscious reminder by [th]e 27-year-old cross-country specialist [of] how often he has come a cropper [ov]er the past seven years.

Craig Virgin of the United States [ov]ertook him with 100m to go, and won. [Bu]t Orthmann, runner-up was not [dis]mayed.

"I have been able to train non-stop [fo]r the past nine weeks. That is why I [a]m in such good form," he said.

Last autumn he underwent nose sur[ger]y and finally put paid to membrane [tro]uble that had laid him low with [cou]ghs, colds and sore throats at regular [in]tervals.

That was why The Tendon seem[ed] de[stin]ed to remain a frustrated genius, [wit]h a European championship victory [in t]he 3,000m at Duisburg in 1973 but [wer]e unable to qualify for either Euro[pea]n championships or Olympics.

[L]ast year he at least won the national [...]m title and was encouraged to go in [for] the marathon, which would indeed [be] his ideal distance with a height of [...]m (6ft 3in) and weight of 63kg [...]lb).

[B]ut when he had little difficulty in beating Karl Fleschen from Düsseldorf in the 3,000m on 26 January he was no longer sure what to do.

First he will have to get used to being healthy. His punishing schedule over the years has earned him a legendary reputation among long-distance runners.

No-one is more popular than The Tendon, a loner whose style of running testifies to his hard work. He looks tired out as he drags his weary limbs along the track, yet he manages to do so for 25 rounds, or 10,000m.

It looks such hard work the crowd must be at a loss to explain how he lasts the distance, but last it he does, sporting the bright yellow schoolboy's cap that has been his talisman all these years.

He always wears it, even indoors. He is a student, a scout and team manager at his local sports club (and only member of the team).

That's the way he likes it, just as he has always preferred camping out to a training camp, which made him a hopeless case in the days when he was always plagued by colds.

Cross-country fans take to a loner of his calibre, however. He wore a Make Love Not War tee-shirt at military championships and was nearly thrown out of the Bundeswehr sports company at Cologne as a result.

Hans-Jürgen Orthmann has been around for a long time and one can but hope reports that he recently patronised the hairdresser's testify to no more than a superficial change.

He is an outsider who deserves care and attention.

Robert Hartmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 March 1980)



Hans-Jürgen Orthmann (Photo: Werek)